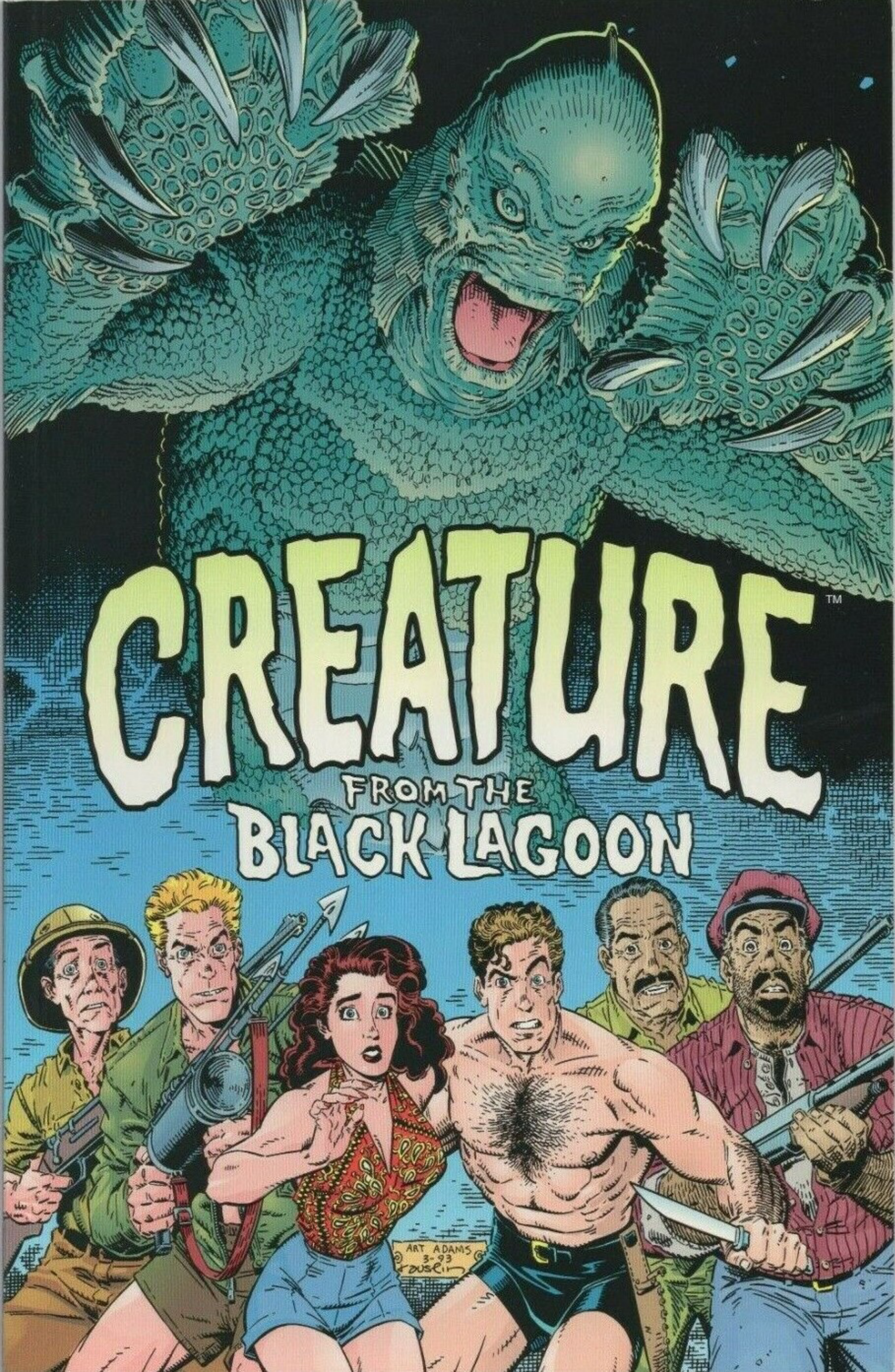
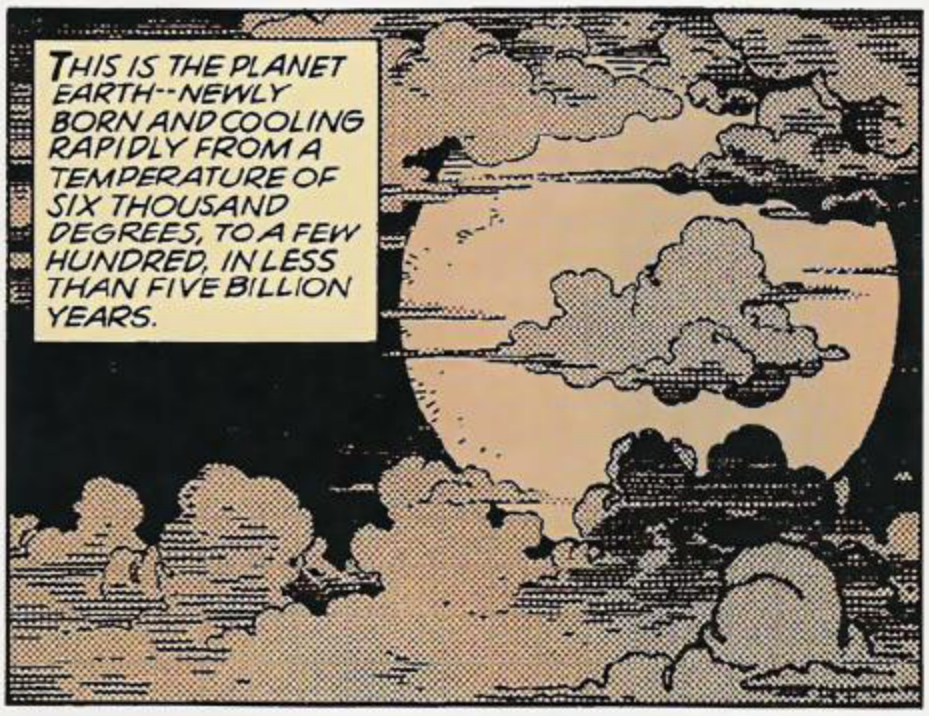
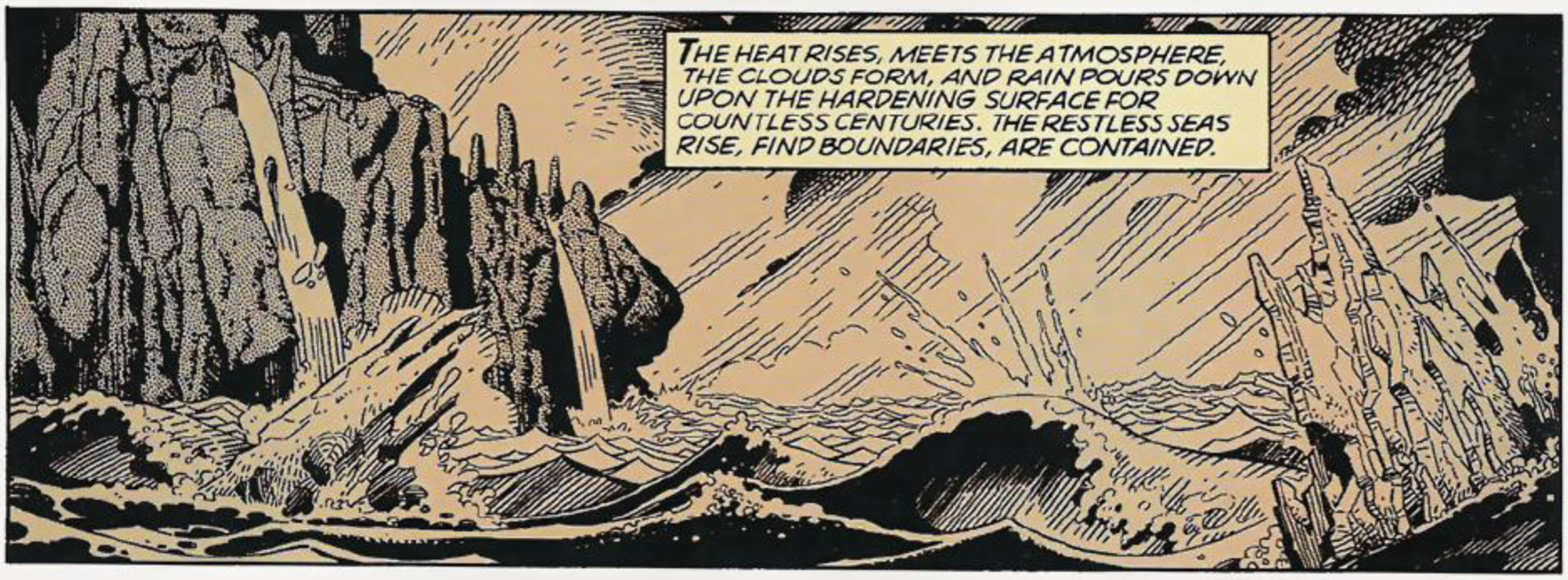
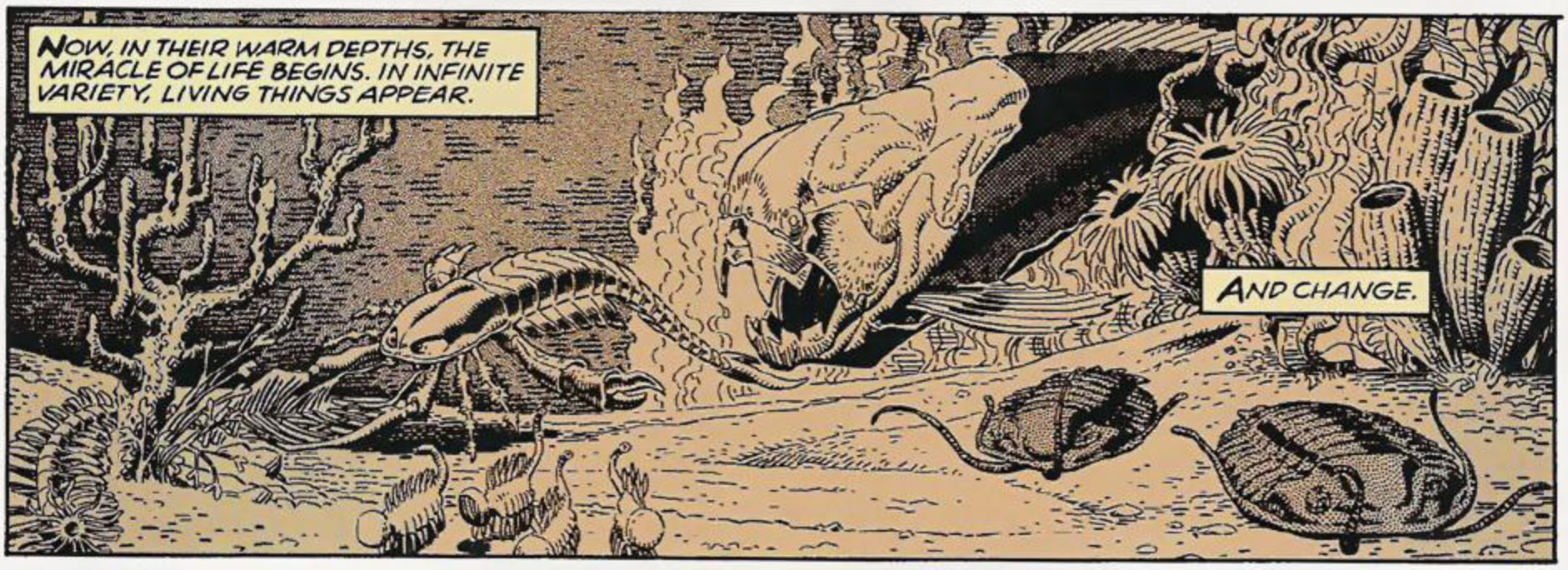

CREATURE™
FROM THE
BLACK LAGOON
ART ADAMS
3-93

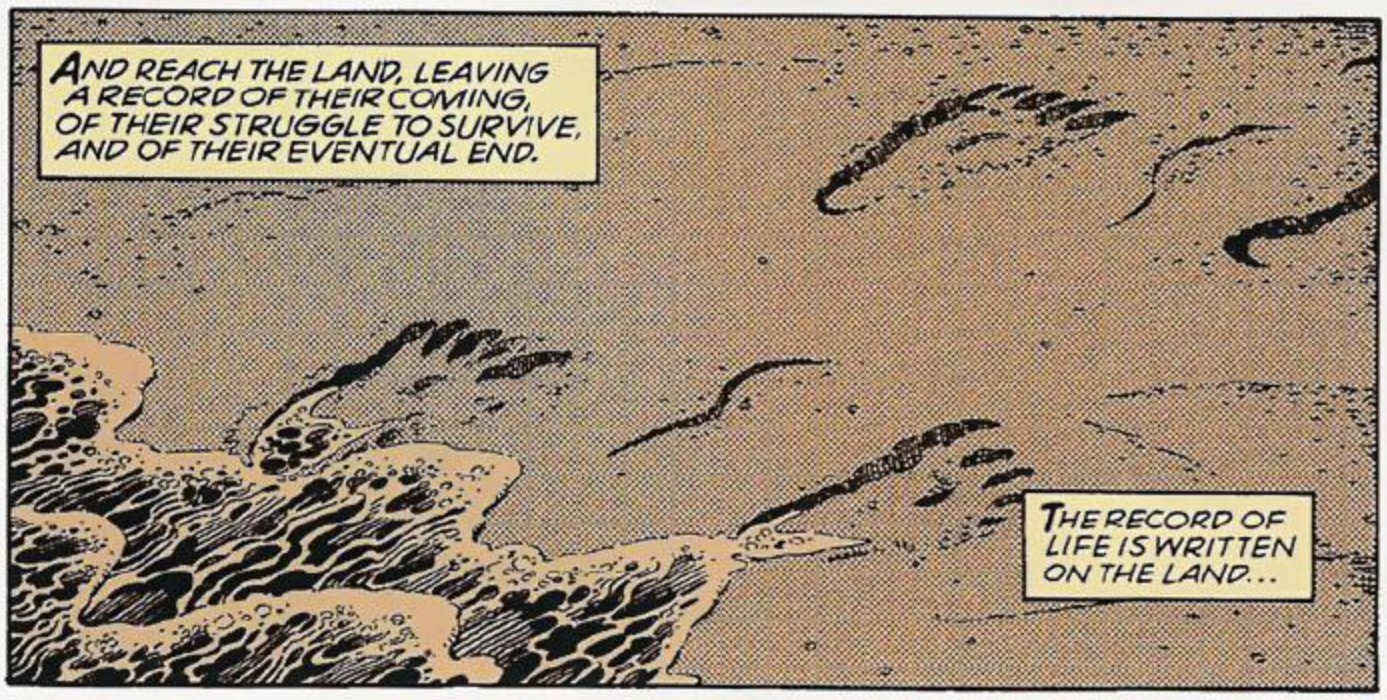
PROLOGUE

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM AND VOID.


THIS IS THE PLANET EARTH--NEWLY BORN AND COOLING RAPIDLY FROM A TEMPERATURE OF SIX THOUSAND DEGREES, TO A FEW HUNDRED, IN LESS THAN FIVE BILLION YEARS.


THE HEAT RISES, MEETS THE ATMOSPHERE, THE CLOUDS FORM, AND RAIN POURS DOWN UPON THE HARDENING SURFACE FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES. THE RESTLESS SEAS RISE, FIND BOUNDARIES, ARE CONTAINED.

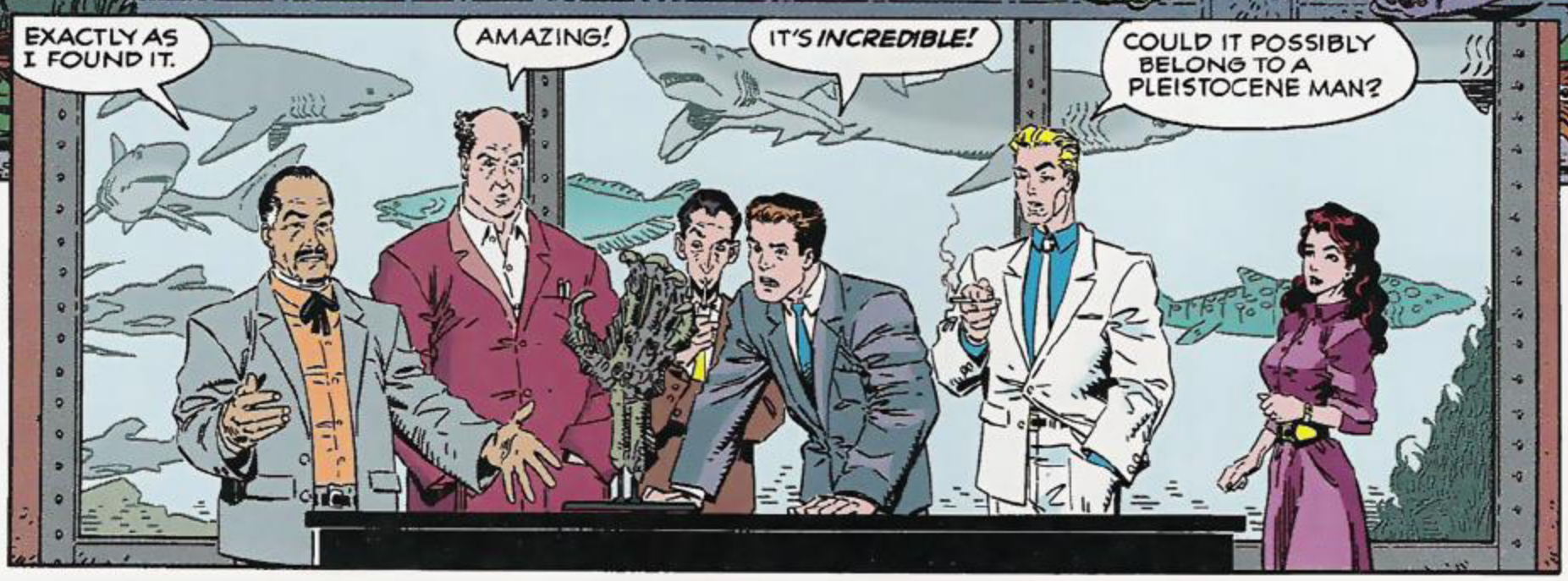

NOW, IN THEIR WARM DEPTHS, THE MIRACLE OF LIFE BEGINS. IN INFINITE VARIETY, LIVING THINGS APPEAR.
AND CHANGE.


AND REACH THE LAND, LEAVING A RECORD OF THEIR COMING, OF THEIR STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE, AND OF THEIR EVENTUAL END.
THE RECORD OF LIFE IS WRITTEN ON THE LAND...

...WHERE FIFTEEN MILLION YEARS LATER, IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE AMAZON, MAN IS STILL TRYING TO READ IT.

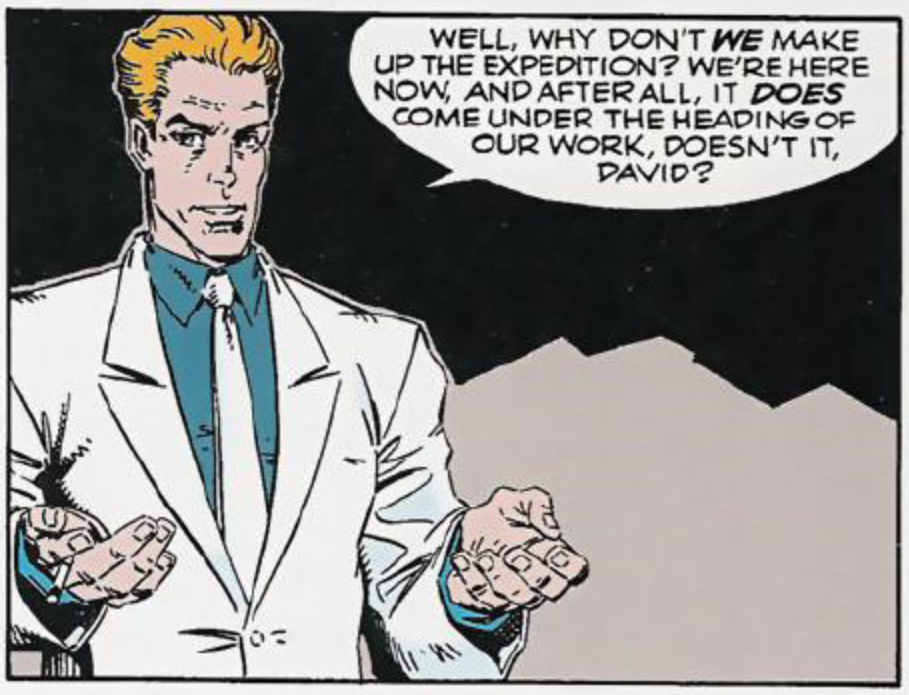
1954, THE AMAZON.
Dr. MAIA!
Dr. MAIA, COME QUICK!
WHAT IS IT, Dr. MAIA?
I DON'T KNOW, LUIS. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!
IT'S IMPORTANT?
YES. I THINK IT IS. VERY IMPORTANT!
KLIK
WE WILL TAKE ONE MORE PICTURE. THEN WE WILL DIG IT OUT.
KLIK
LUIS, I'M GOING TO MORAJO BAY, TO THE INSTITUTE. YOU TWO ARE TO WAIT HERE IN THE CAMP.
YOU BE GONE LONG?
LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS...
...AND TO GET HELP IN DIGGING OUT THE REST OF THE SKELETON.
I WANT A MAN IN CAMP AT ALL TIMES. LUIS, YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE.

HERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN.

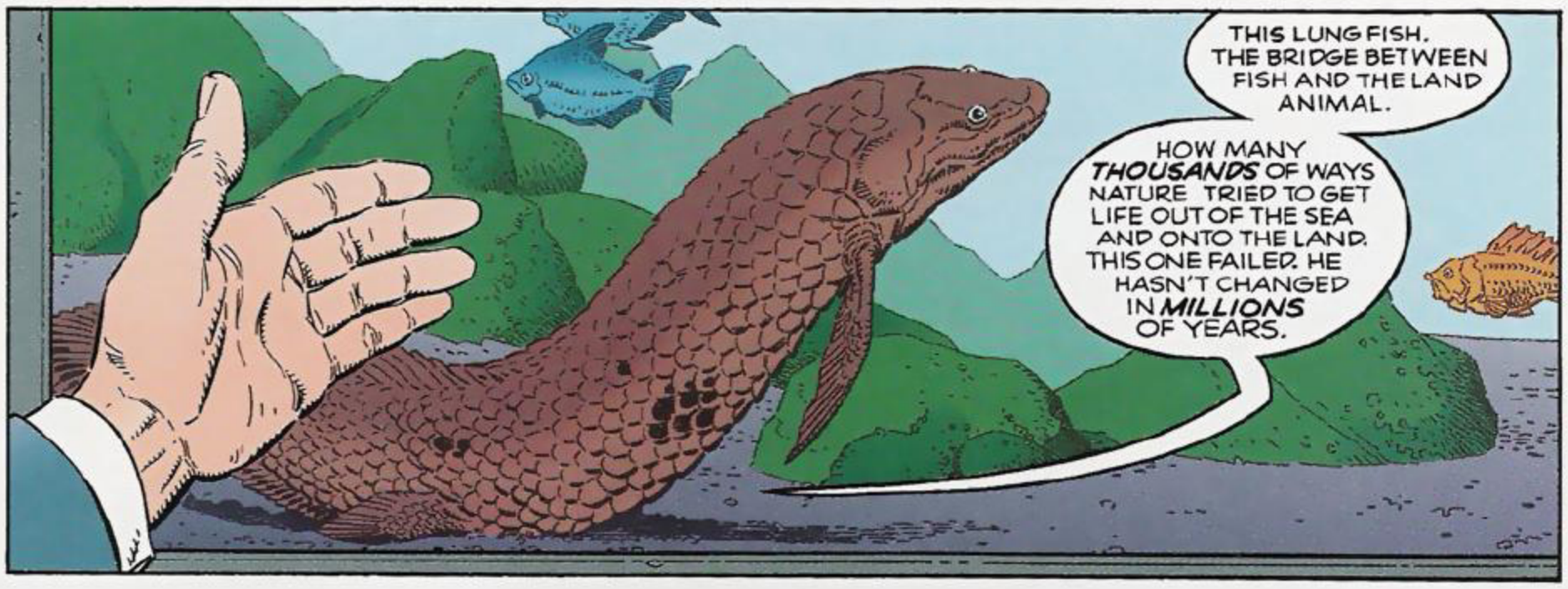

EXACTLY AS I FOUND IT.
AMAZING!
IT'S *INCREDIBLE!*
COULD IT POSSIBLY BELONG TO A PLEISTOCENE MAN?

WELL, THE CHANCES ARE MUCH GREATER THAT THAT HAND BELONGED TO AN AMPHIBIAN, MARK. ONE THAT SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IN THE WATER.
WELL, THEN HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE FINGERS? OBVIOUSLY FOR LAND USE.

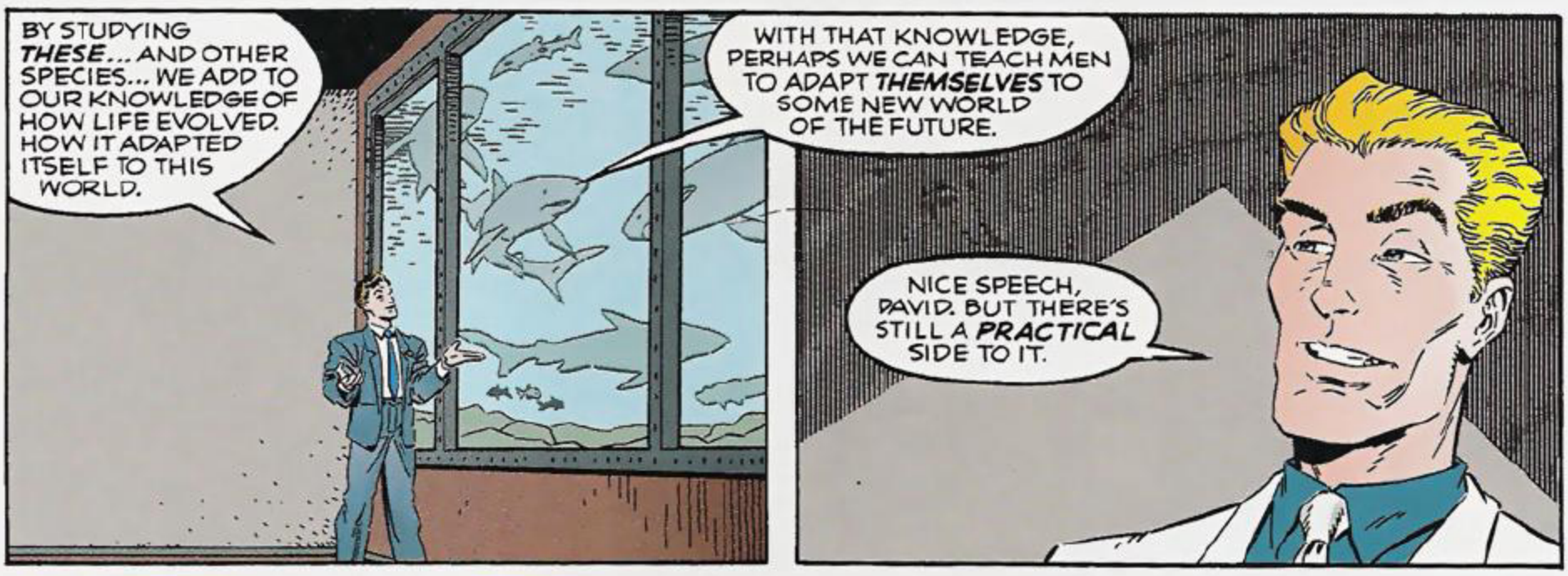
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK Dr. MANTOSE?
WE CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING... WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS VERY POWERFUL. YOU SAY YOU HAVE HOPES OF FINDING THE REST OF THE FOSSIL?
AS SOON AS I GET A SUITABLE EXPEDITION TOGETHER.


WELL, WHY DON'T *WE* MAKE UP THE EXPEDITION? WE'RE HERE NOW, AND AFTER ALL, IT *DOES* COME UNDER THE HEADING OF OUR WORK, DOESN'T IT, DAVID?

IT CERTAINLY DOES. MORE AND MORE WE'RE LEARNING THE MEANING AND VALUE OF MARINE RESEARCH.
LOOK, OVER HERE.


THIS LUNG FISH. THE BRIDGE BETWEEN FISH AND THE LAND ANIMAL.
HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF WAYS NATURE TRIED TO GET LIFE OUT OF THE SEA AND ONTO THE LAND. THIS ONE FAILED. HE HASN'T CHANGED IN MILLIONS OF YEARS.

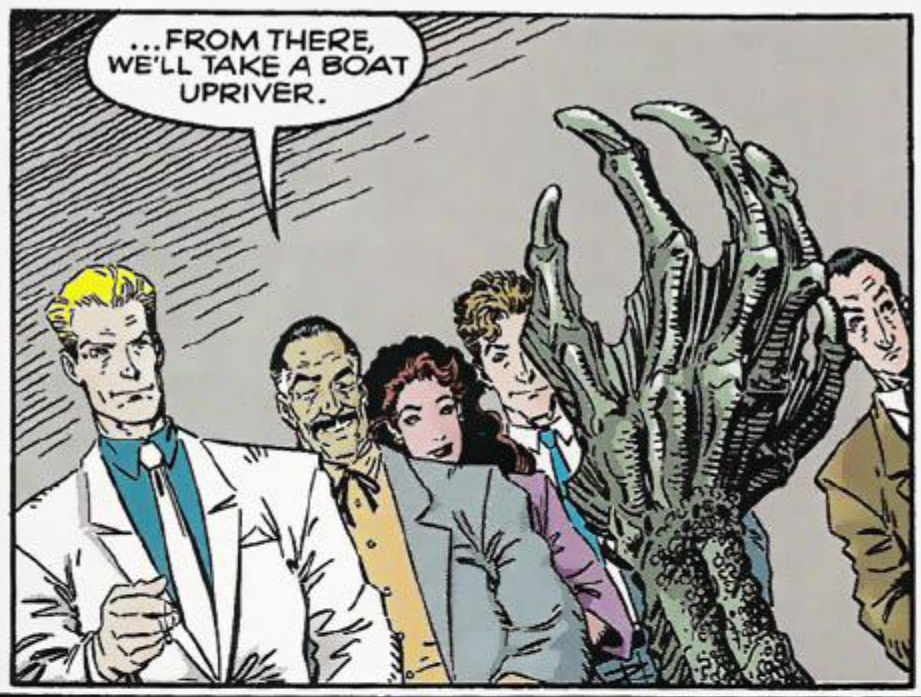
BUT HERE.
HERE WE HAVE A CLUE TO AN ANSWER. SOMEDAY SPACE-SHIPS WILL BE TRAVELING FROM EARTH TO OTHER PLANETS. HOW ARE HUMAN BEINGS GOING TO SURVIVE ON THOSE PLANETS? THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE DIFFERENT... THE PRESSURES WILL BE DIFFERENT.


BY STUDYING THESE... AND OTHER SPECIES... WE ADD TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HOW LIFE EVOLVED. HOW IT ADAPTED ITSELF TO THIS WORLD.
WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE, PERHAPS WE CAN TEACH MEN TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO SOME NEW WORLD OF THE FUTURE.
NICE SPEECH, DAVID. BUT THERE'S STILL A PRACTICAL SIDE TO IT.

IF I SOUND BRASH, AND MORE LIKE A BANKER THAN A SCIENTIST, TRY TO REMEMBER THAT IT TAKES MONEY TO RUN AN INSTITUTE LIKE OURS.
A FIND OF ANY REAL IMPORTANCE CAN BE OF GREAT FINANCIAL VALUE TO US, ALSO.

CERTAINLY YOUR BOARD COULDN'T DISAPPROVE.

Dr. MAIA, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF AN EXPEDITION.
GOOD! WE'LL LEAVE FOR MANOUSE IN THE MORNING...


...FROM THERE, WE'LL TAKE A BOAT UPRIVER.

THAT SAME NIGHT, BACK AT Dr. MAIA'S CAMP...

GARONK!
GRONK
WHAT'S THAT?

NO!

AAAAAAEGH

CRASH
CRACK

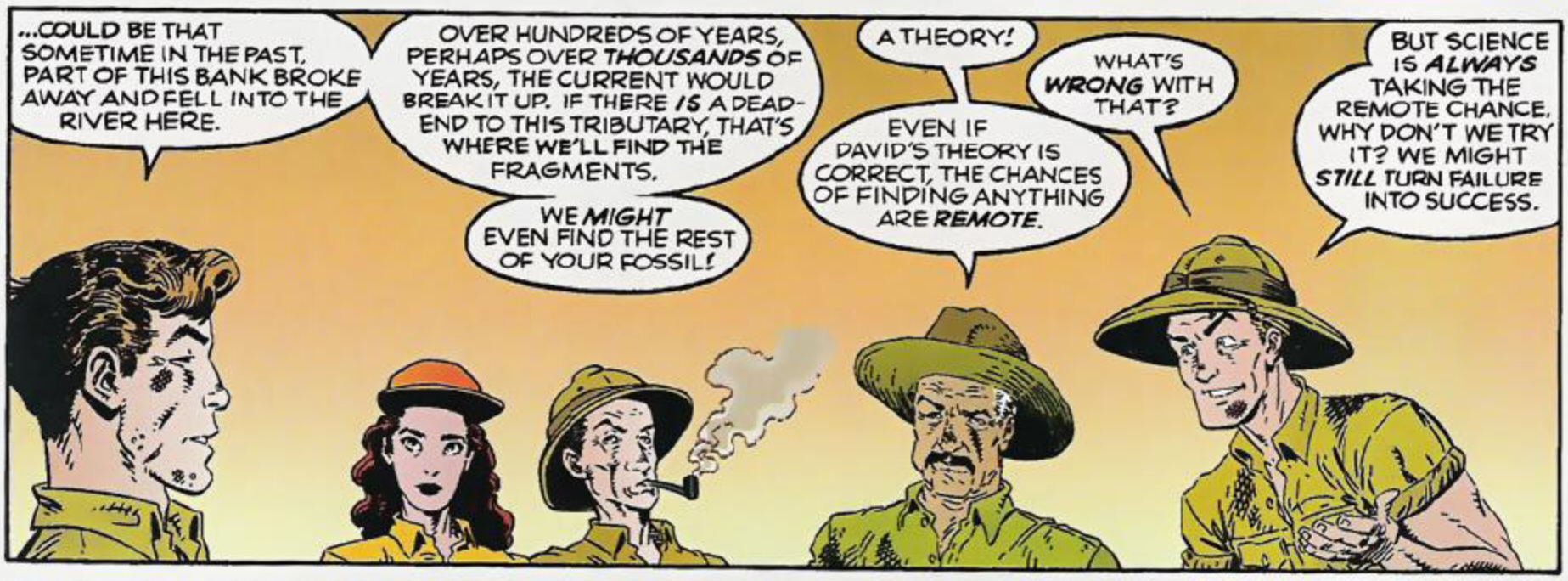
SOME DAYS LATER.
IT'S SO HOT HERE.
IT'LL GET HOTTER!
RITA

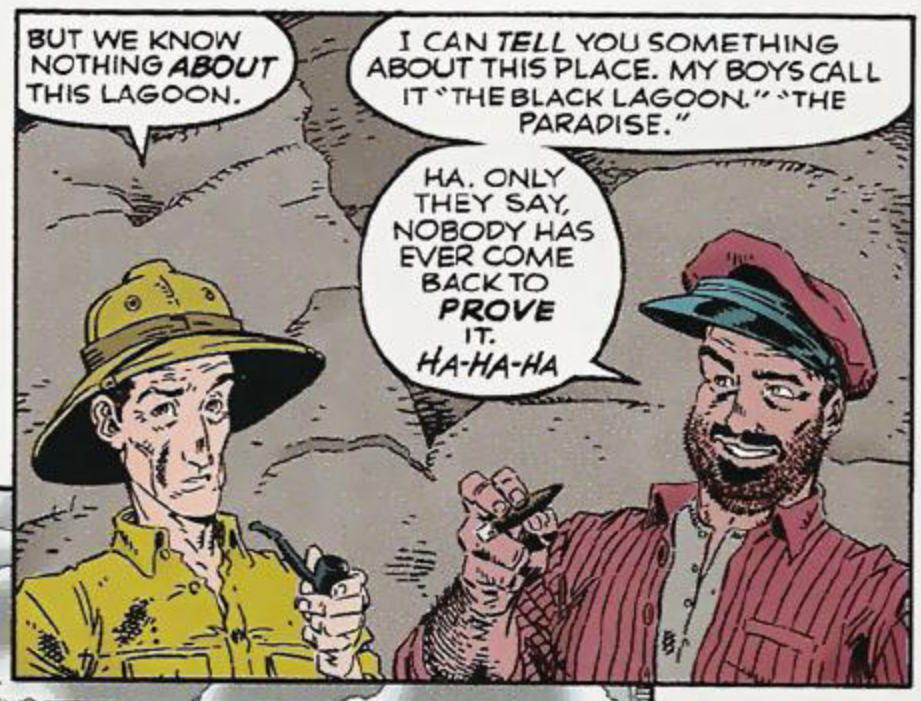
OW!! GRRR!
COULDN'T MAIA FIND ANYTHING BETTER THAN THIS BARGE?!
TUNK!
KICK!
WELL, I GUESS NOT MANY SHIPS WANT TO GO UPRIVER AS FAR AS WE'RE GOING.

THE NEXT DAY...
...AND I THOUGHT THE MISSISSIPPI WAS SOMETHING!
IT'S A WINDING BROOK COMPARED TO THE AMAZON.
THIS IS EXACTLY AS IT WAS A HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION YEARS AGO, WHEN IT WAS PART OF THE DEVONIAN ERA.
RITA
SOUNDS LIKE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD.
IT IS.
EVEN THE ANIMALS HERE GROW AS THEY DID IN DEVONIAN FORESTS. THE ANTEATER IS A GIANT, WITH THE STRENGTH OF A BEAR. THE CENTIPEDE GROWS TO BE A FOOT LONG. THE AMAZONIAN RAT IS AS BIG AS A SHEEP.
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
AND DON'T FORGET OUR CATFISH. THEY GROW TO BE NINE FEET LONG. AND KILLERS!
LIKE EVERYTHING IN THIS JUNGLE: ALL KILLERS.
Oh, Dr. MAIA SAYS WE'RE GONNA DROP ANCHOR IN A COUPLA HOURS. MAYBE YOU BETTER GET SOME REST, eh?
OK.
LATER...
HONK! HARONK! HONK!
AGAIN, LUCAS.
HONK! HARONK!
WE WANNA MAKE SURE MY BOYS HEAR US AT CAMP.
WHEN WE ANCHOR, WE'LL TAKE A ROW BOAT.
LUIS!
TOMAS!
LUIS!
LUIS! TOMAS! STRANGE TO BE GONE.

COULD THEY'VE GONE HUNTING?
I GAVE STRICT ORDERS FOR ONE MAN TO REMAIN IN CAMP AT ALL TIMES!
C'MON!
STAY HERE, KAY. WAIT'LL WE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
LUIS!
WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED?
THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION... THE COUNTRY IS FULL OF WILD ANIMALS!
I THINK MAYBE JAGUAR.
JAGUAR'S CLAWS... THEY RIP LIKE THIS.
WHERE'S KAY?
KAY!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THERE'S BEEN TROUBLE.
LET'S GO BACK ON BOARD.

A WORLD-SHAKING FIND, ALL RIGHT.
EIGHT DAYS!
ALL WE DIG UP ARE ENOUGH STONES TO PAVE A ROAD.




BUT WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS LAGOON.
I CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE. MY BOYS CALL IT "THE BLACK LAGOON." "THE PARADISE."
HA. ONLY THEY SAY, NOBODY HAS EVER COME BACK TO PROVE IT. HA-HA-HA

WE'LL DO IT!
Huh?

THE FOLLOWING DAY...
RITA

AH!
Oh, DAVID!
Heh! Heh! SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE ME DO THAT!
THAT HOWLING OUT THERE DOESN'T HELP ANY.
Ah... THOSE ARE BUHREEBA MONKEYS.
YOU SORRY NOW THAT WE CAME?

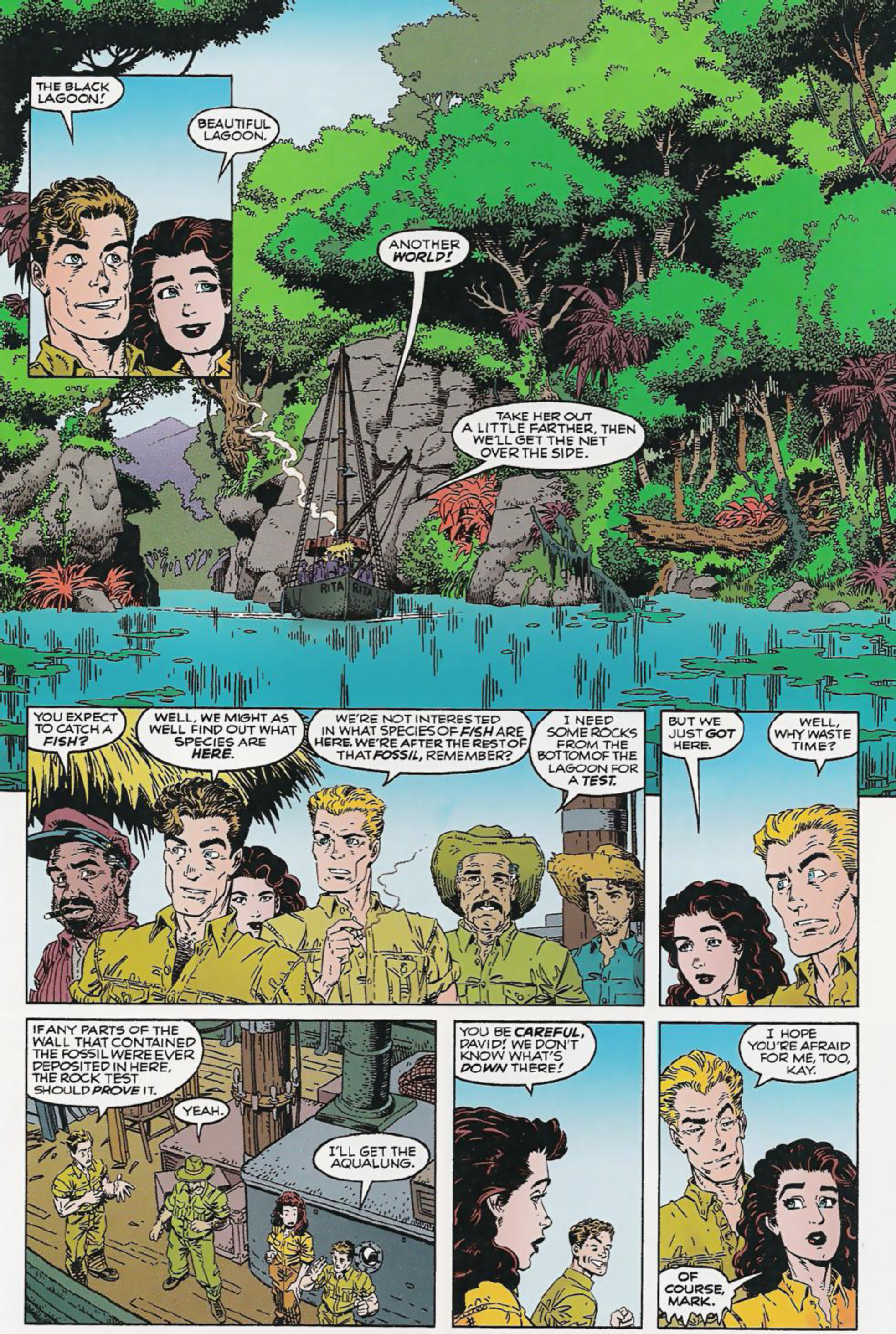
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SPECIES VERY WELL.

WELL, GIVE ME TIME. I-I THOUGHT I WAS DOING WELL, CONSIDERING THAT WE'VE ONLY BEEN TOGETHER FOR SIX MONTHS.
HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED?
FROM WHERE I'M SITTING, I'D SAY... A LIFETIME!

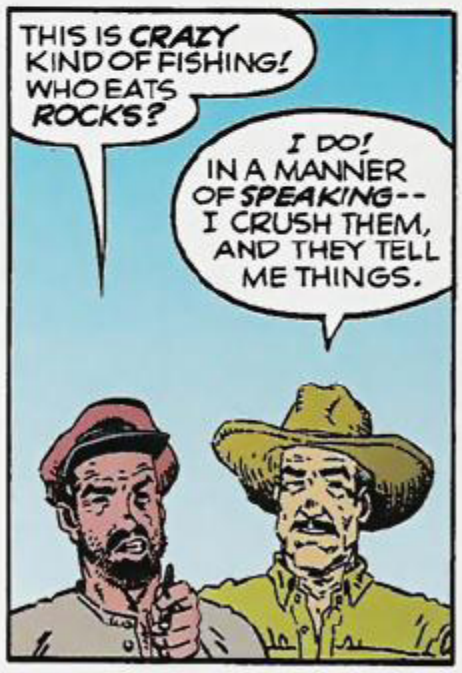
THAT'S THE RIGHT ANSWER.

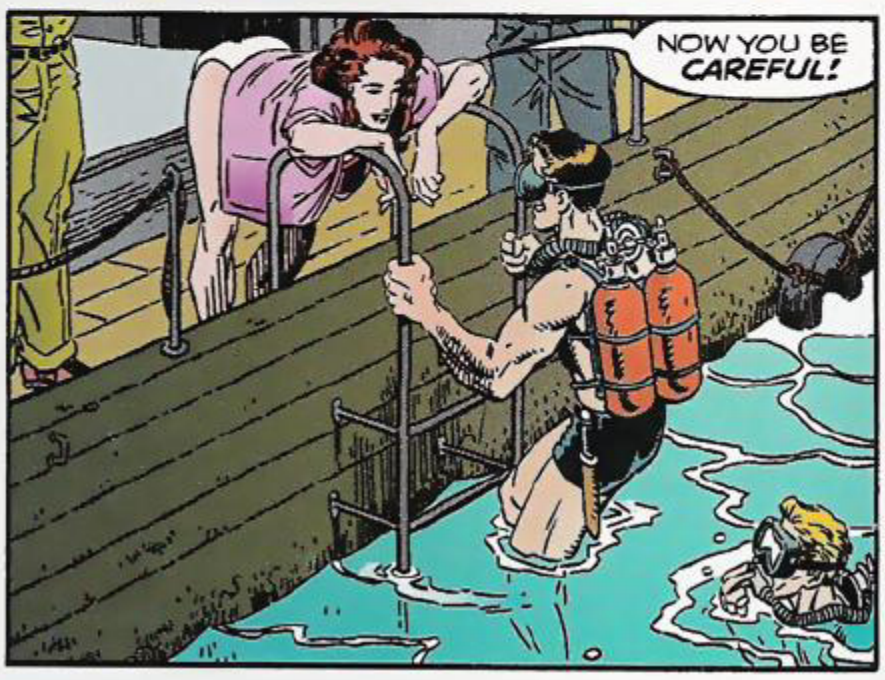
ROAR!
WE MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE A LIFETIME.

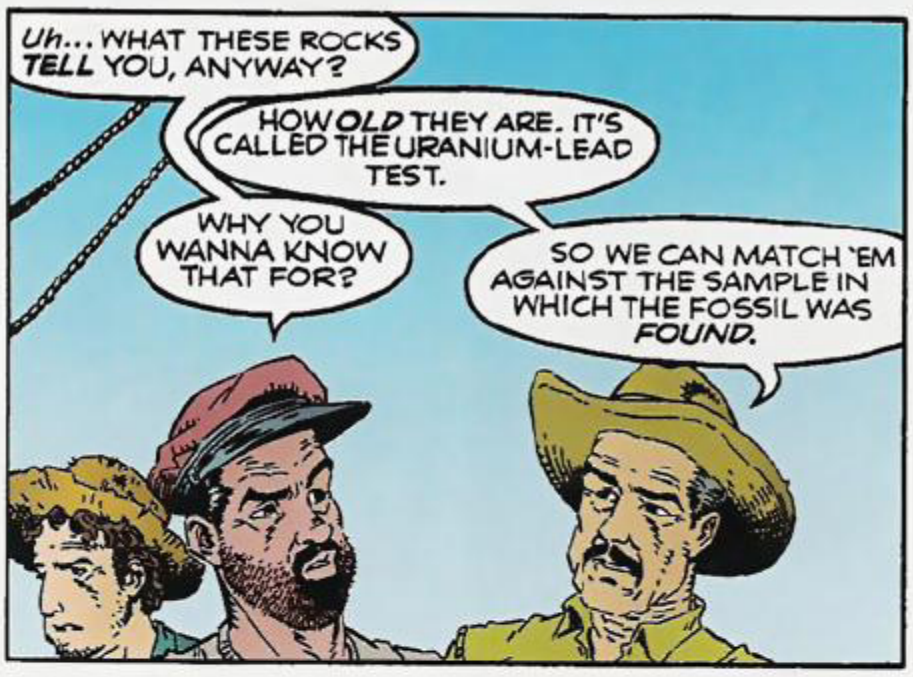
IN THAT CASE...
Y-YOU MEAN THIS THING REALLY WORKS?
IT'S A VERY POSITIVE WEAPON, THE SPEARGUN, LUCAS. AND EASY TO USE. ALL YOU DO IS AIM IT AND SQUEEZE.
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA SHOOT AT?
HA. MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?
CHHSSHH
KTUNK!
HEY!
LATER...
CAN YOU TAKE IT ANY SLOWER?
EASE 'ER OFF. LITTLE BIT. NOT TOO MUCH.
GIVE ME THAT BOAT HOOK. I THINK WE'LL JUST MAKE IT ON THIS SIDE.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! BUT I, LUCAS, WILL DO IT!
IT'S TIGHT OVER HERE.
WE MADE IT!
RITA
RITA
RITA


THE BLACK LAGOON!
BEAUTIFUL LAGOON.
ANOTHER WORLD!
TAKE HER OUT A LITTLE FARTHER, THEN WE'LL GET THE NET OVER THE SIDE.
RITA
RITA
YOU EXPECT TO CATCH A FISH?
WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL FIND OUT WHAT SPECIES ARE HERE.
WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT SPECIES OF FISH ARE HERE. WE'RE AFTER THE REST OF THAT FOSSIL, REMEMBER?
I NEED SOME ROCKS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE LAGOON FOR A TEST.
BUT WE JUST GOT HERE.
WELL, WHY WASTE TIME?
IF ANY PARTS OF THE WALL THAT CONTAINED THE FOSSIL WERE EVER DEPOSITED IN HERE, THE ROCK TEST SHOULD PROVE IT.
YEAH.
I'LL GET THE AQUALUNG.
YOU BE CAREFUL, DAVID! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S DOWN THERE!
I HOPE YOU'RE AFRAID FOR ME, TOO, KAY.
OF COURSE, MARK.

LITTLE FASTER! C'MON! FASTER! ALL RIGHT! LET IT DOWN! ALL THE WAY! C'MON... DOWN! DOWN! ALL THE WAY!
ALL RIGHT-- HOLD IT! HOLD IT!
WE GOT THE NET DOWN, DAVID.
GOOD!


THIS IS CRAZY KIND OF FISHING! WHO EATS ROCKS?
I DO! IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING-- I CRUSH THEM, AND THEY TELL ME THINGS.


NOW YOU BE CAREFUL!


Uh... WHAT THESE ROCKS TELL YOU, ANYWAY?
HOW OLD THEY ARE. IT'S CALLED THE URANIUM-LEAD TEST.
WHY YOU WANNA KNOW THAT FOR?
SO WE CAN MATCH 'EM AGAINST THE SAMPLE IN WHICH THE FOSSIL WAS FOUND.

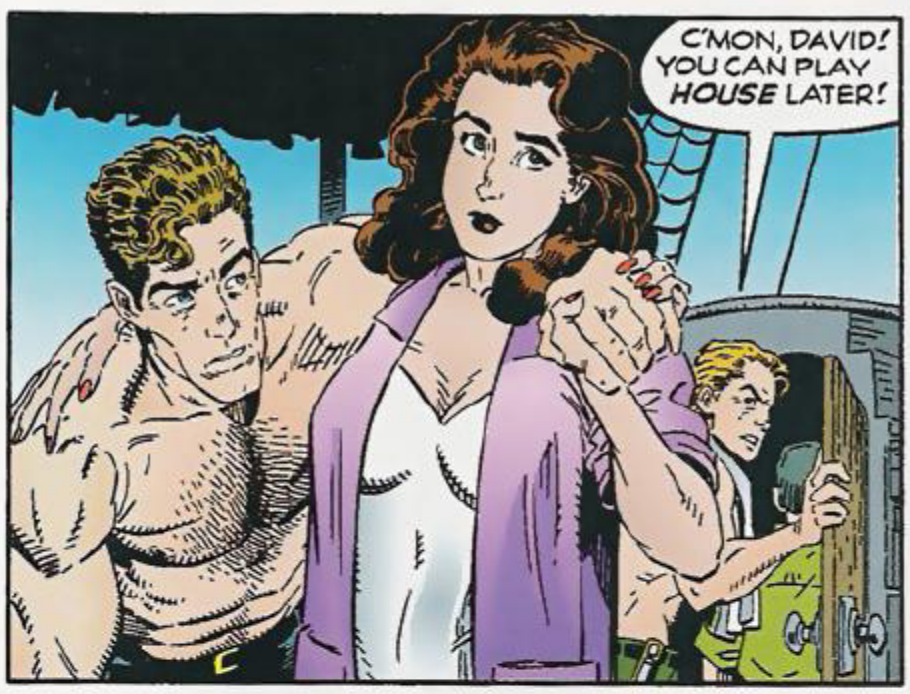
HEY, THEY'RE UP!
HEY, HOW LONG THEY HAVE TO WAIT THERE?
DEPENDS ON HOW FAR DOWN THEY WENT.

WELL, HOW WAS IT DOWN THERE, huh?
Oh, FINE.
C'MON, I'LL HELP YOU OFF WITH THIS EQUIPMENT.
GOOD.

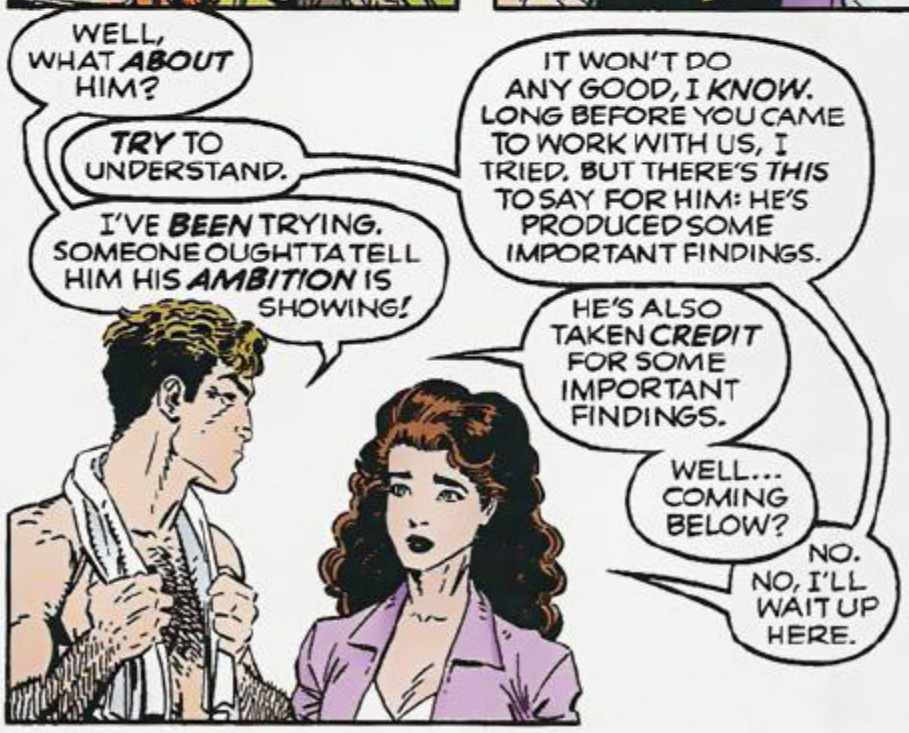
CARL, I GOT YOUR SAMPLES.
GOOD. LET ME HAVE THEM.
THANK YOU, DAVID.

AND THIS... IS SOMETHING FOR YOU.
Oh...WELL THANK YOU. THEY'RE VERY PRETTY.

LET'S TEST THEM RIGHT AWAY!
WILL YOU HELP ME, DOCTOR?
BE GLAD TO.

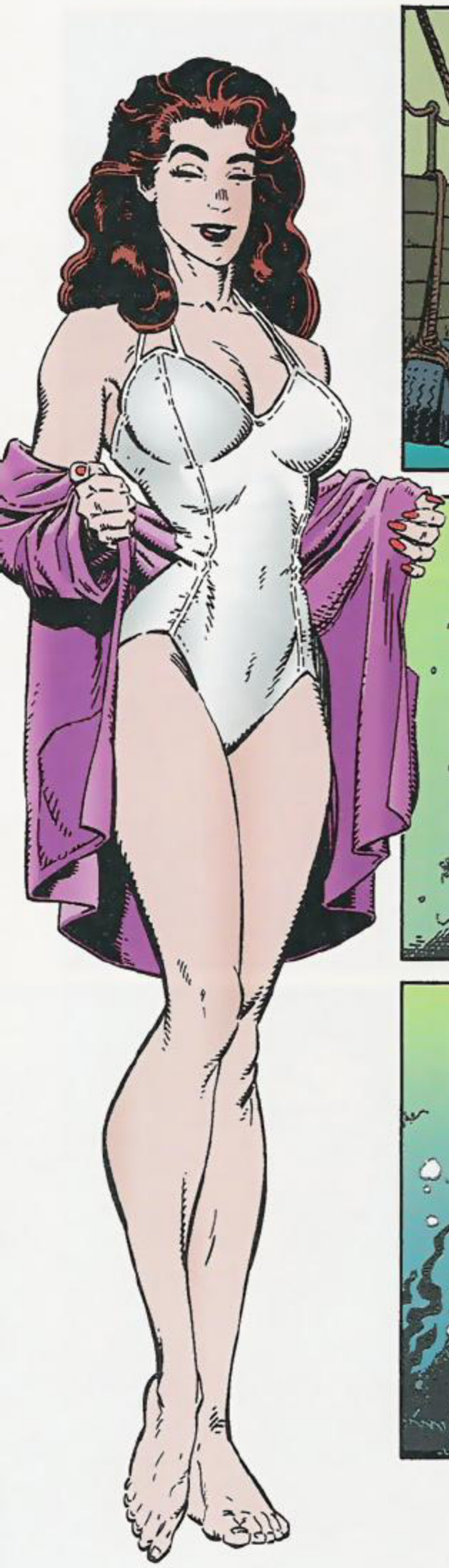

C'MON, DAVID! YOU CAN PLAY HOUSE LATER!

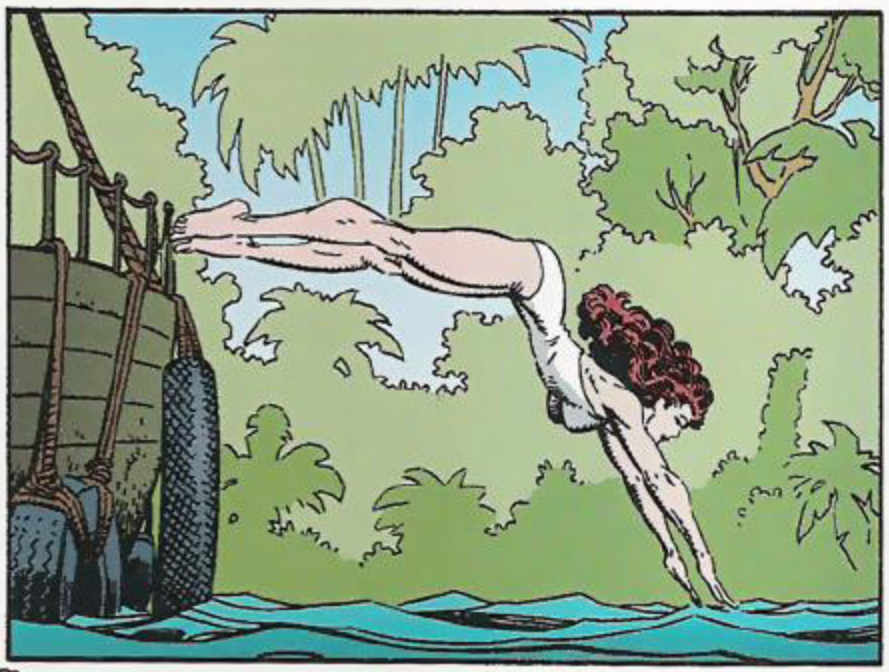
DAVID. ABOUT MARK...

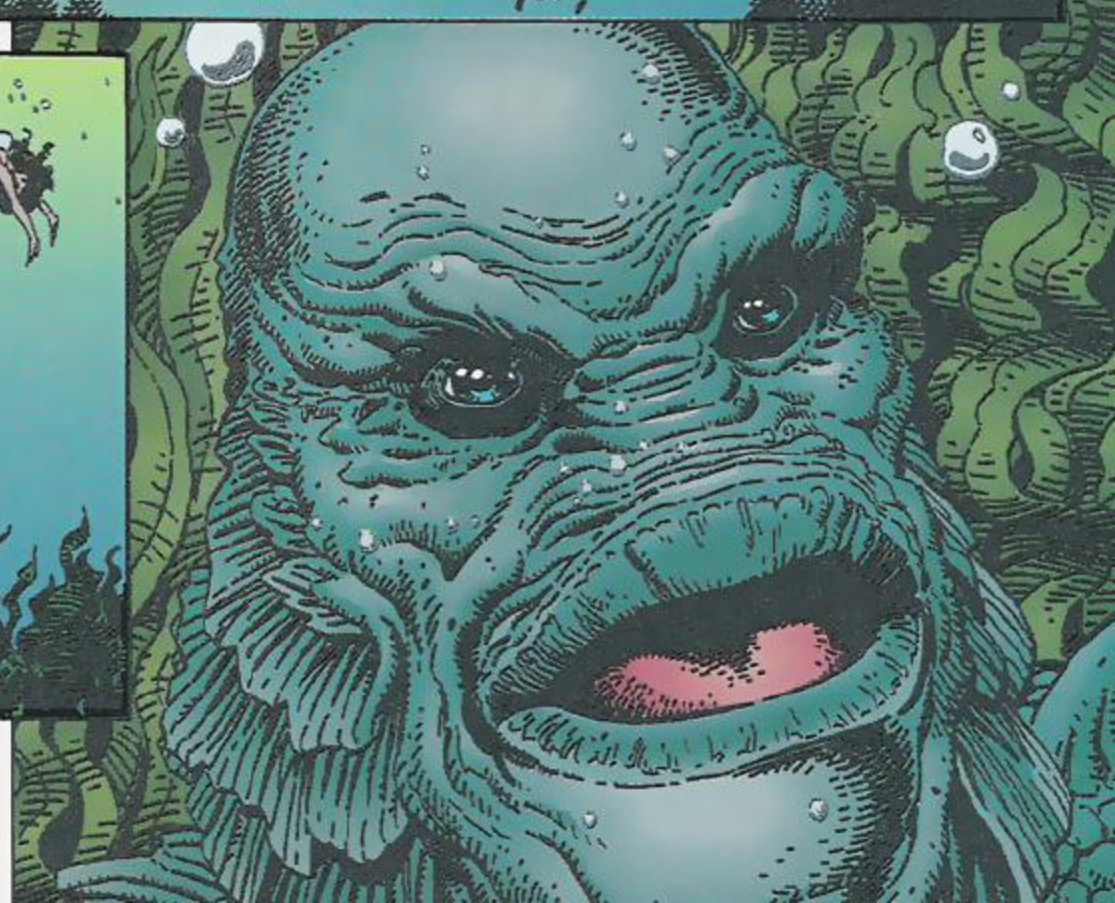

WELL, WHAT ABOUT HIM?
TRY TO UNDERSTAND.
I'VE BEEN TRYING. SOMEONE OUGHTA TELL HIM HIS AMBITION IS SHOWING!
IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD, I KNOW. LONG BEFORE YOU CAME TO WORK WITH US, I TRIED. BUT THERE'S THIS TO SAY FOR HIM: HE'S PRODUCED SOME IMPORTANT FINDINGS.
HE'S ALSO TAKEN CREDIT FOR SOME IMPORTANT FINDINGS.
WELL... COMING BELOW?
NO. NO, I'LL WAIT UP HERE.

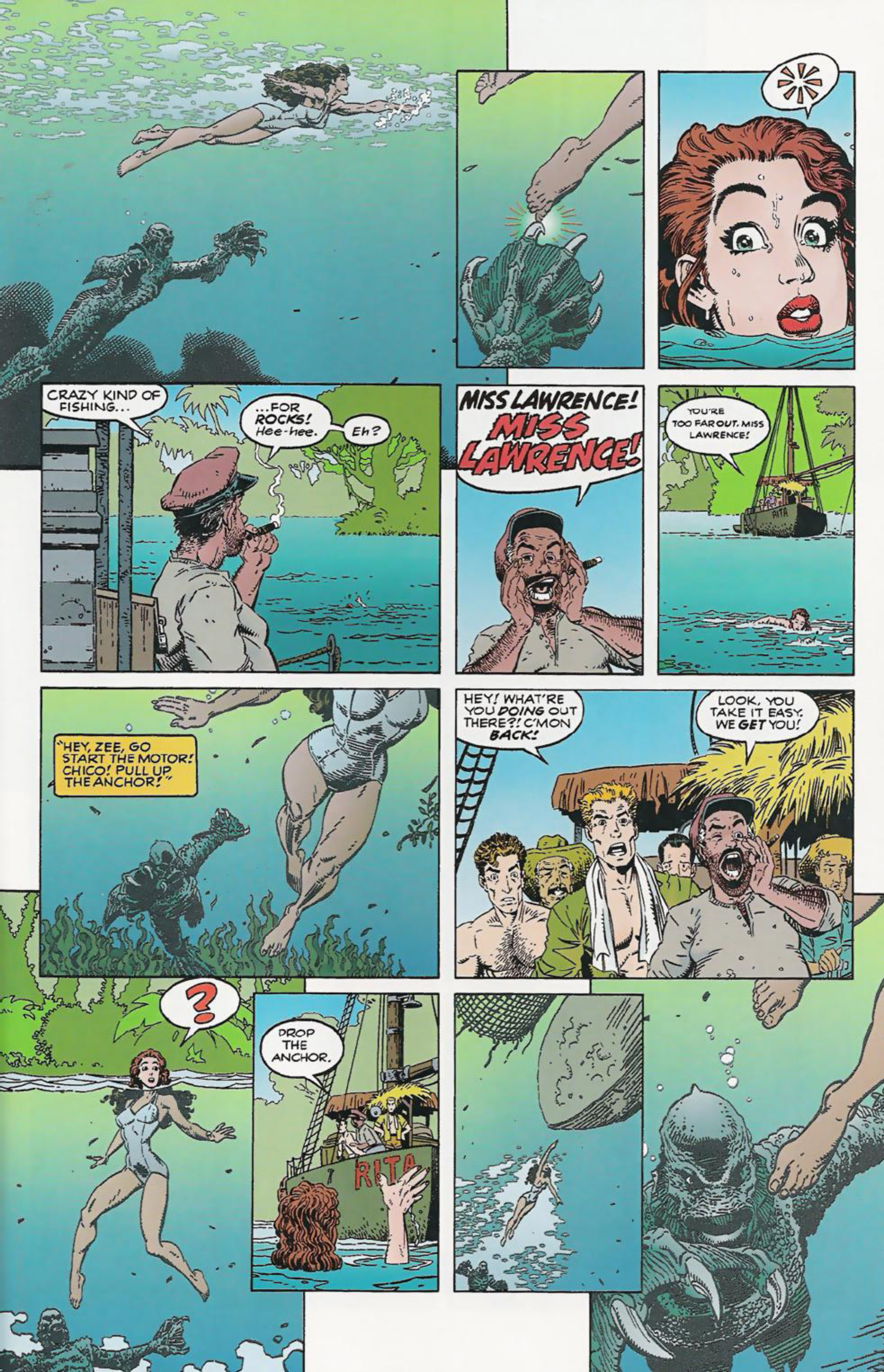
HEY,... WHAT WAS IT LIKE DOWN THERE?
LIKE ANOTHER WORLD.

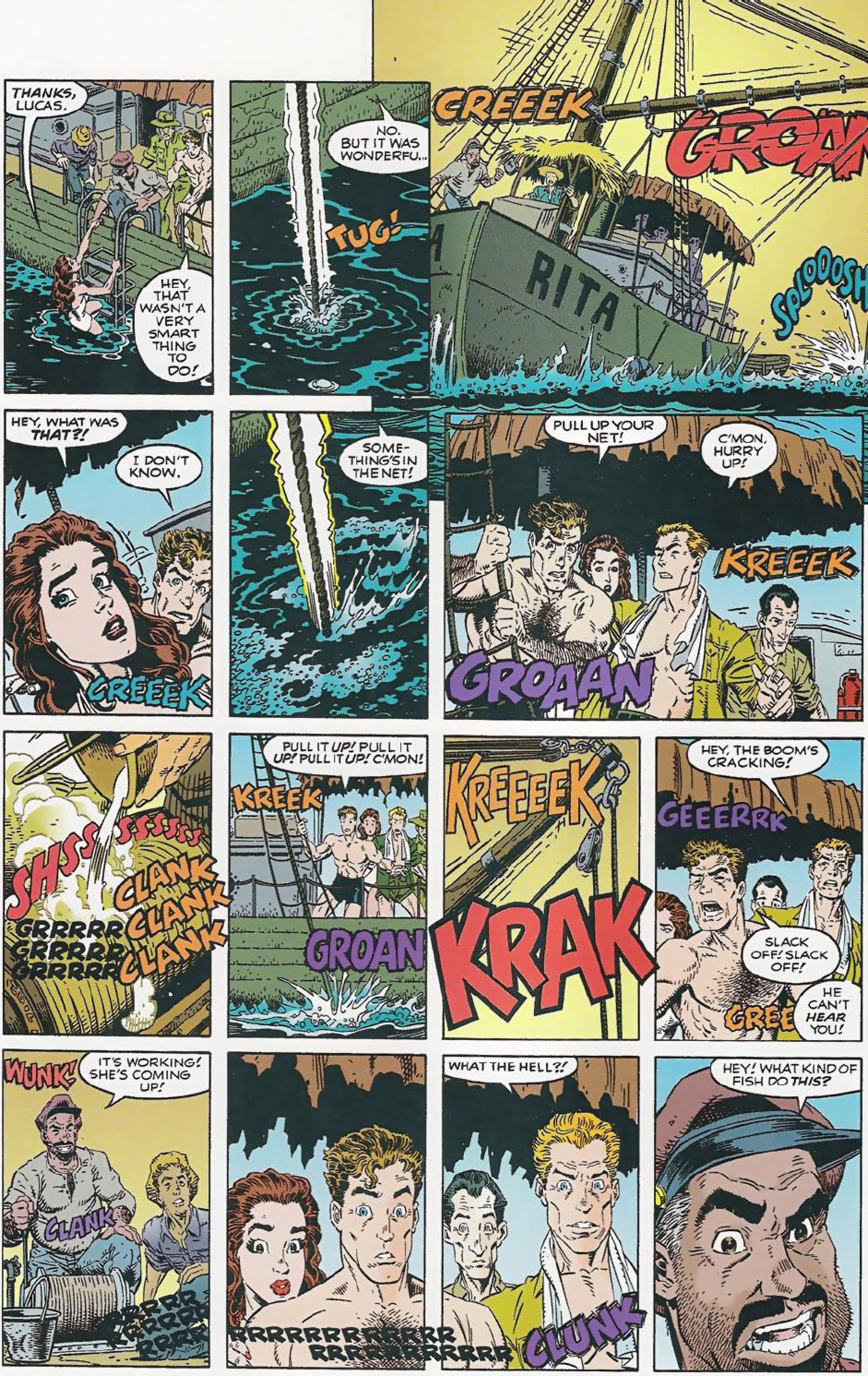
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT.

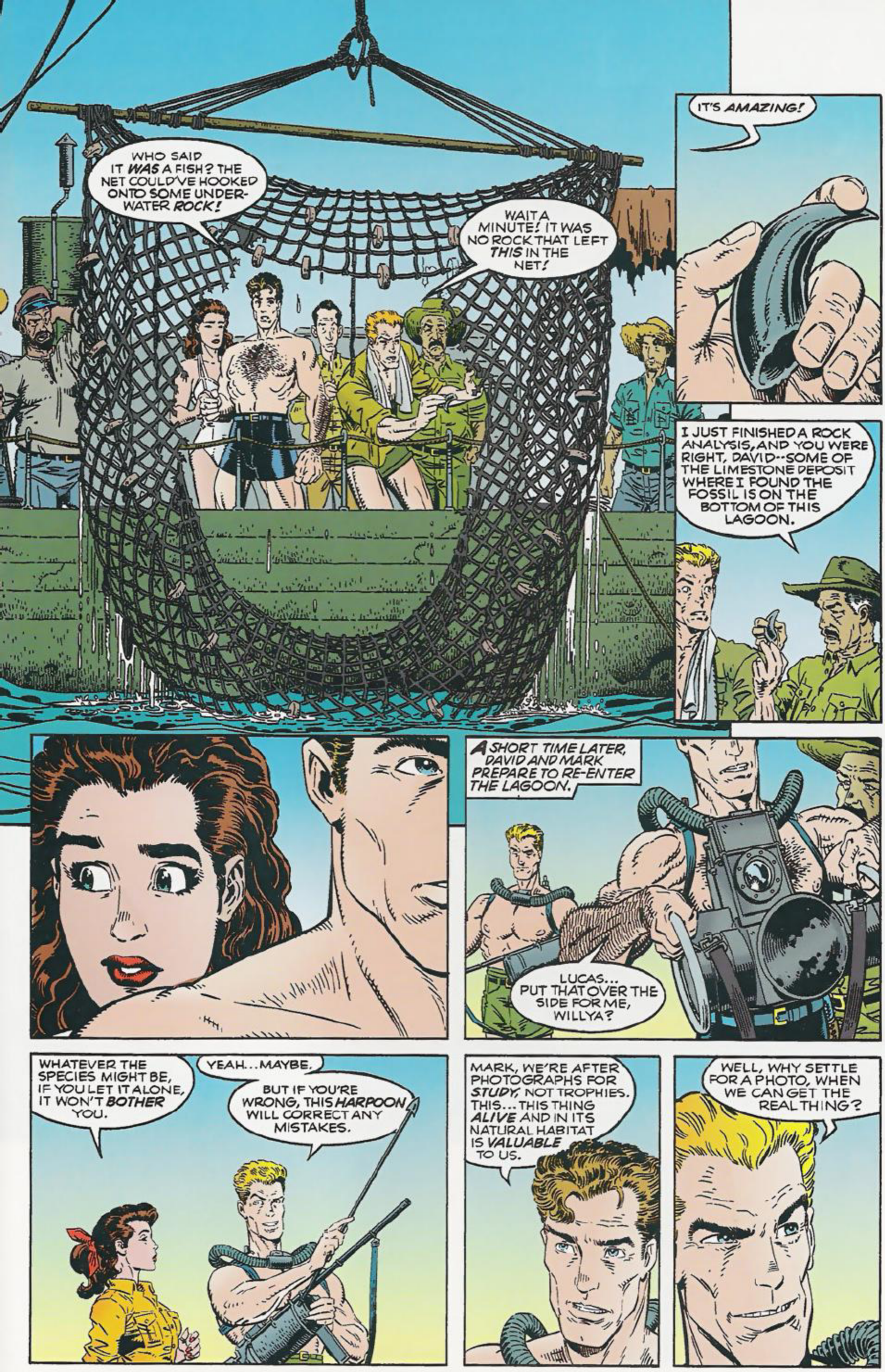







CRAZY KIND OF FISHING...
...FOR ROCKS! Hee-hee.
Eh?
MISS LAWRENCE! MISS LAWRENCE!
YOU'RE TOO FAR OUT, MISS LAWRENCE!
RITA
"HEY, ZEE, GO START THE MOTOR! CHICO! PULL UP THE ANCHOR!"
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT THERE?! C'MON BACK!
LOOK, YOU TAKE IT EASY. WE GET YOU!
?
DROP THE ANCHOR.
RITA

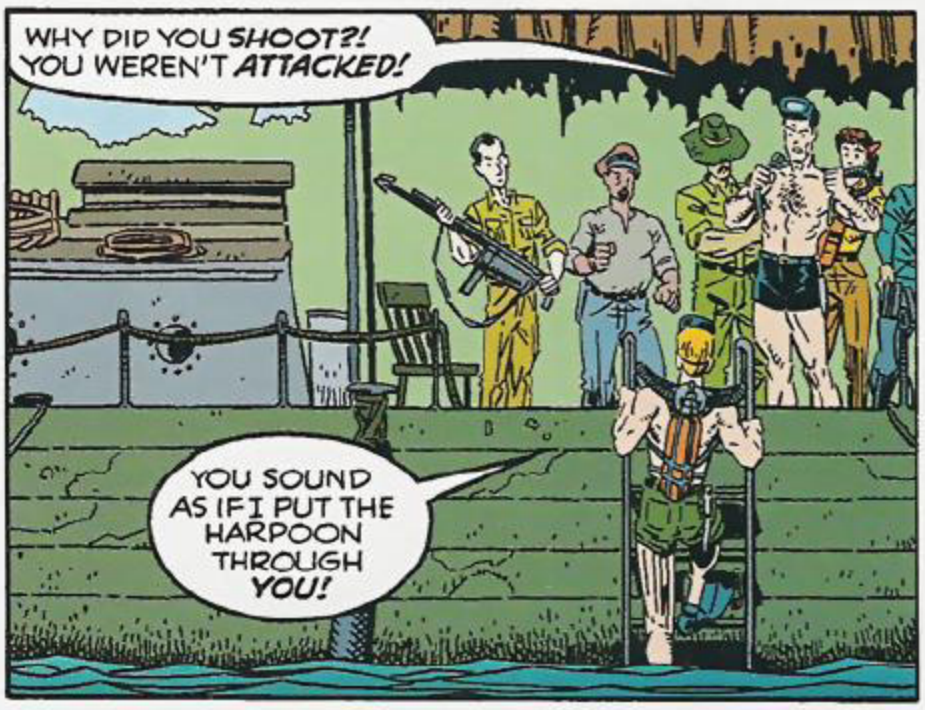

THANKS, LUCAS.
HEY, THAT WASN'T A VERY SMART THING TO DO!
NO. BUT IT WAS WONDERFU...
TUG!
CREEEK
GROAN
SPLOOOSH
HEY, WHAT WAS *THAT?!*
I DON'T KNOW.
CREEEK
SOME-THING'S IN THE NET!
PULL UP YOUR NET!
C'MON, HURRY UP!
KREEEK
GROAAN
SHSS
SSSSSS
CLANK CLANK CLANK
GRRRRRR GRRRRRR GRRRRRR
PULL IT *UP!* PULL IT *UP!* PULL IT *UP!* C'MON!
KREEK
GROAN
KREEEEK
KRAK
HEY, THE BOOM'S CRACKING!
GEEERRK
SLACK OFF! SLACK OFF!
GREE
HE CAN'T *HEAR* YOU!
WUNK!
IT'S WORKING! SHE'S COMING UP!
CLANK
WHAT THE HELL?!
CLUNK
HEY! WHAT KIND OF FISH DO *THIS?*

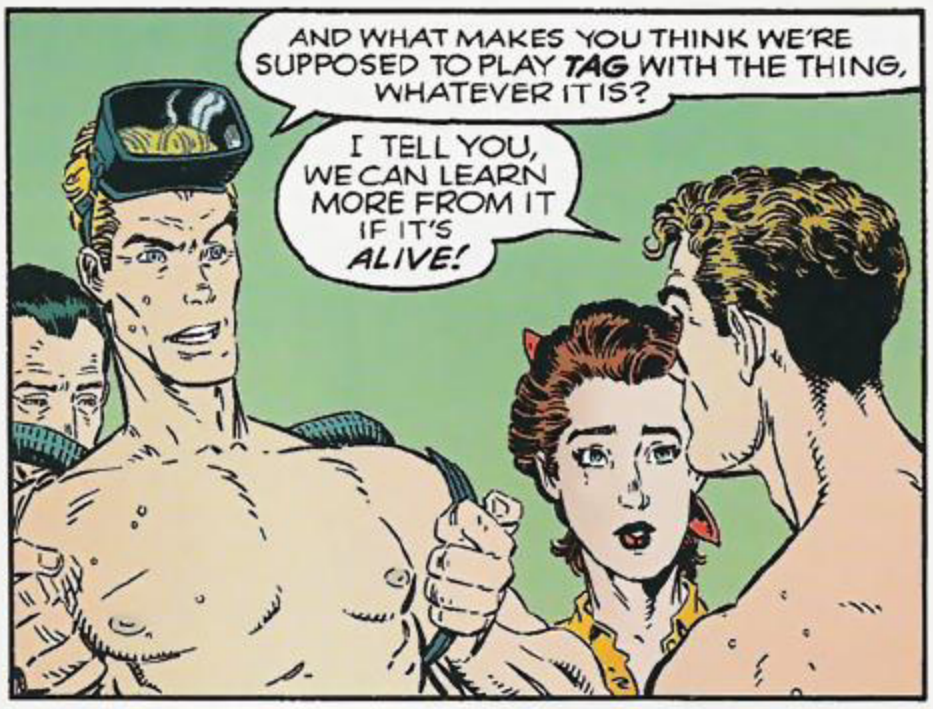

WHO SAID IT WAS A FISH? THE NET COULD'VE HOOKED ONTO SOME UNDER-WATER ROCK!
WAIT A MINUTE! IT WAS NO ROCK THAT LEFT THIS IN THE NET!
IT'S AMAZING!
I JUST FINISHED A ROCK ANALYSIS, AND YOU WERE RIGHT, DAVID--SOME OF THE LIMESTONE DEPOSIT WHERE I FOUND THE FOSSIL IS ON THE BOTTOM OF THIS LAGOON.
A SHORT TIME LATER, DAVID AND MARK PREPARE TO RE-ENTER THE LAGOON.
LUCAS... PUT THAT OVER THE SIDE FOR ME, WILLYA?
WHATEVER THE SPECIES MIGHT BE, IF YOU LET IT ALONE, IT WON'T BOTHER YOU.
YEAH...MAYBE.
BUT IF YOU'RE WRONG, THIS HARPOON WILL CORRECT ANY MISTAKES.
MARK, WE'RE AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS FOR STUDY, NOT TROPHIES. THIS... THIS THING ALIVE AND IN ITS NATURAL HABITAT IS VALUABLE TO US.
WELL, WHY SETTLE FOR A PHOTO, WHEN WE CAN GET THE REAL THING?

YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE A *SCIENTIST,* YOU SOUND LIKE SOME BIG GAME HUNTER, OUT FOR THE *KILL!*

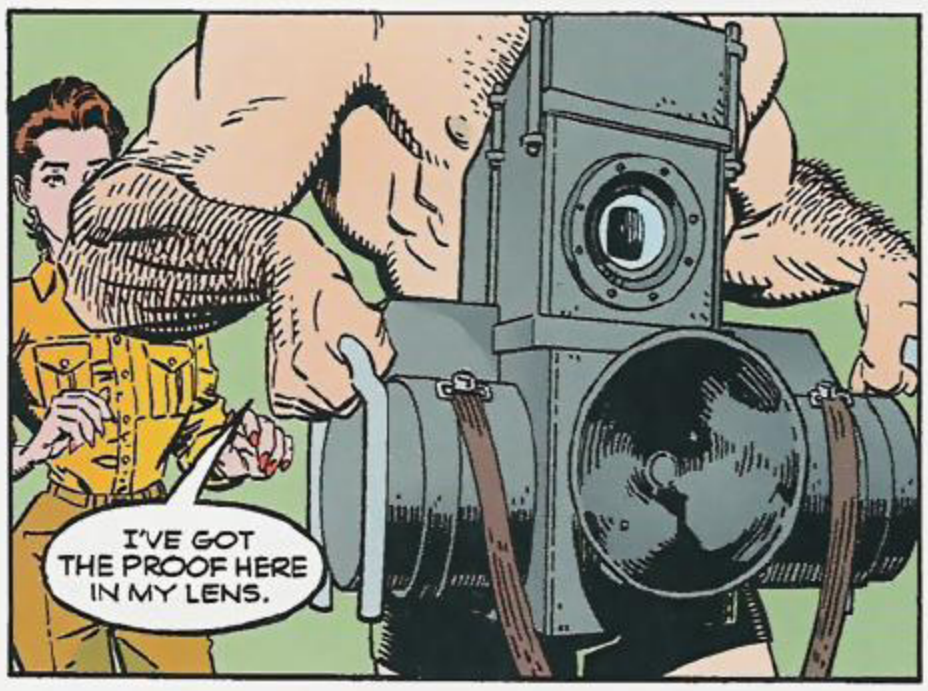
WE MAY NOT BE BACK HOME, DAVID, BUT YOU'RE STILL WORKING FOR *ME!*

SSHOOOSH
YOU DIDN'T *WAIT* LONG ENOUGH BEFORE COMING UP!


WHY DID YOU SHOOT?! YOU WEREN'T ATTACKED!
YOU SOUND AS IF I PUT THE HARPOON THROUGH YOU!


AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PLAY TAG WITH THE THING, WHATEVER IT IS?
I TELL YOU, WE CAN LEARN MORE FROM IT IF IT'S ALIVE!

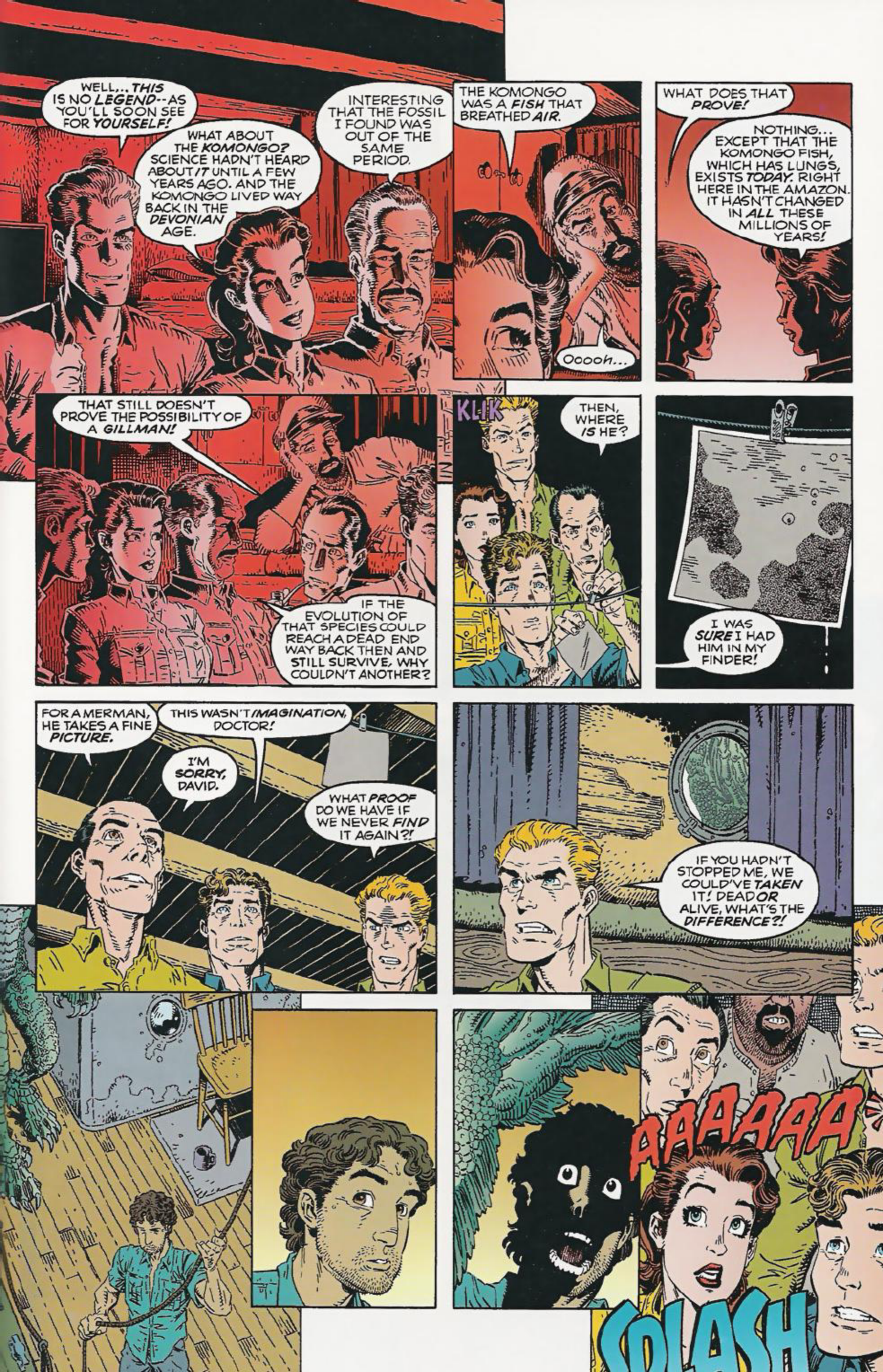
PLEASE...WHAT IS IT YOU FOUND?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CALL IT!
SOUNDS INCREDIBLE, BUT... IT APPEARED TO BE HUMAN!
I TELL YA, IF IT'S WHAT I THINK I SAW, IT'S THE GREATEST FIND YET! NOTHING COMPARES TO IT!


I'VE GOT THE PROOF HERE IN MY LENS.

BELOW DECK.
MANY YEARS AGO, I HEARD THIS LEGEND ON THE RIVER:

A VERY OLD NATIVE TELL ME OF A MAN WHO LIVE UNDER-WATER. BUT SHE WAS CRAZY! "CRAZY GHOULIE," EVERYBODY CALL HER! HA!

THE UNKNOWN ALWAYS SEEMS UNBELIEVABLE, LUCAS.
ONE ACCEPTS THESE THINGS AS LEGEND... AND LET'S IT GO AT THAT.
BUT TO ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE EXISTS SOMETHING LIKE A HUMAN BEING THAT CAN LIVE UNDER-WATER...


WELL... THIS IS NO LEGEND--AS YOU'LL SOON SEE FOR YOURSELF!
WHAT ABOUT THE KOMONGO? SCIENCE HADN'T HEARD ABOUT IT UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO. AND THE KOMONGO LIVED WAY BACK IN THE DEVONIAN AGE.
INTERESTING THAT THE FOSSIL I FOUND WAS OUT OF THE SAME PERIOD.
THE KOMONGO WAS A FISH THAT BREATHED AIR.
Ooooh...
WHAT DOES THAT PROVE!
NOTHING... EXCEPT THAT THE KOMONGO FISH, WHICH HAS LUNGS, EXISTS TODAY. RIGHT HERE IN THE AMAZON. IT HASN'T CHANGED IN ALL THESE MILLIONS OF YEARS!
THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE THE POSSIBILITY OF A GILLMAN!
IF THE EVOLUTION OF THAT SPECIES COULD REACH A DEAD END WAY BACK THEN AND STILL SURVIVE, WHY COULDN'T ANOTHER?
KLIK
THEN, WHERE IS HE?
I WAS SURE I HAD HIM IN MY FINDER!
FOR A MERMAN, HE TAKES A FINE PICTURE.
THIS WASN'T IMAGINATION, DOCTOR!
I'M SORRY, DAVID.
WHAT PROOF DO WE HAVE IF WE NEVER FIND IT AGAIN?!
IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED ME, WE COULD'VE TAKEN IT! DEAD OR ALIVE, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?!
AAAAAA
SPLASH

ALL RIGHT, LUCAS... START YOUR PUMP.

IT'S A WASTE OF TIME! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE IT ALIVE!

I WANNA TRY, MARK!

NOW, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CATCH IT!

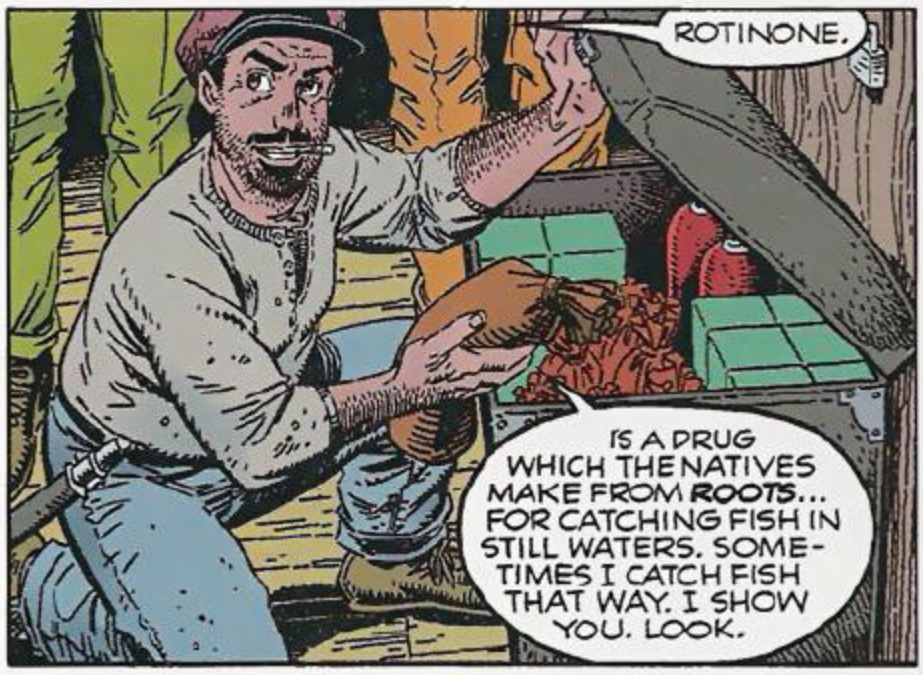
ALL RIGHT, DAVID. WE CAN ALWAYS DO IT MY WAY!

IF WE COULD JUST BE SURE OF ITS REACTION.

DO YOU SUPPOSE IT REMEMBERS MARK'S ATTACK... AND SEEKS REVENGE?
I WELCOME IT!

YOU'LL GET YOUR WISH, ALL RIGHT. I'VE GOT A HUNCH THIS... THIS CREATURE REMEMBERS THE PAST AND MORE! I DON'T WANT HIM CREEPING UP ON US WHILE WE'RE SLEEPING!

I KNOW A WAY TO BRING 'IM UP NOW.
Huh?

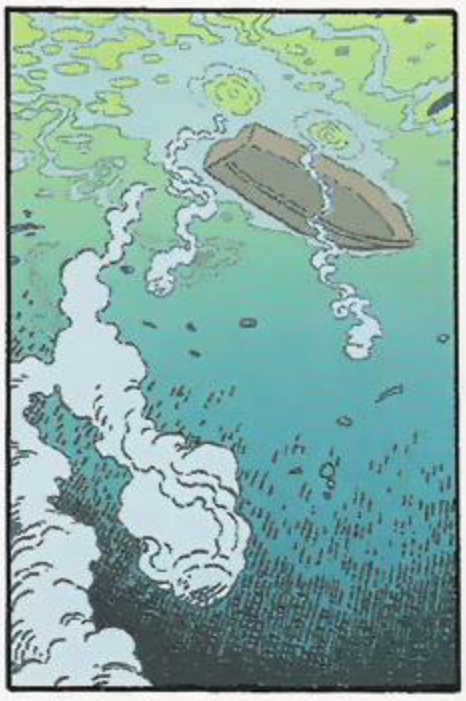

ROTINONE.
IS A DRUG WHICH THE NATIVES MAKE FROM ROOTS... FOR CATCHING FISH IN STILL WATERS. SOMETIMES I CATCH FISH THAT WAY. I SHOW YOU. LOOK.

ONE TASTE OF THE POISON WATER AND... POOF! THE PARALYZED FISH FLOATS UP TO THE TOP... WITH A BIG HANGOVER!
WELL, C'MON! LET'S TRY IT!

RITA
RITA

STILL NO SIGN?
NOTHING BUT THE LITTLE ONES, SO FAR.
COULD BE HE'S DEAD FROM THE WOUND. THEN AGAIN, MAYBE THE ROTINONE ISN'T GOING DEEP ENOUGH.

MAYBE WE SHOULD FIX THE ROTINONE TO SINK DEEPER DOWN, huh?
ANYTHING IS WORTH A TRY!

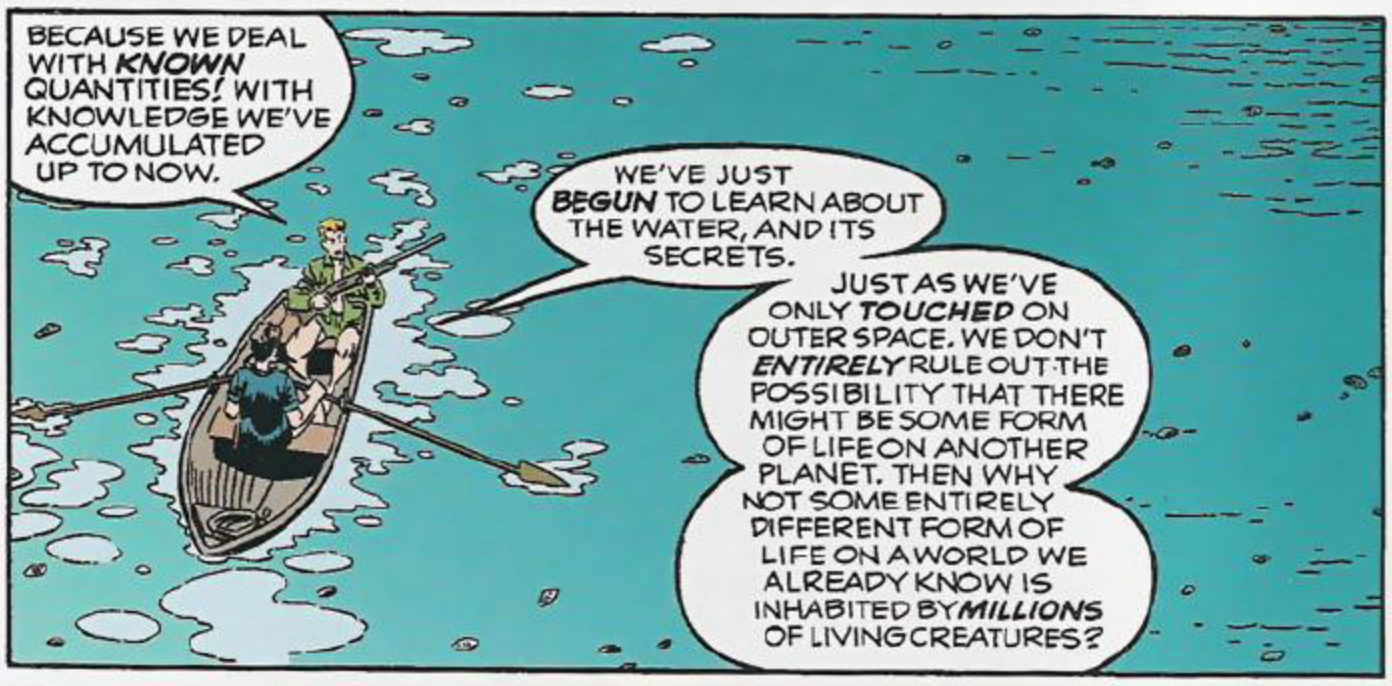


SPLASH
WHAT WAS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW!

C'MON... C'MON!
RITA

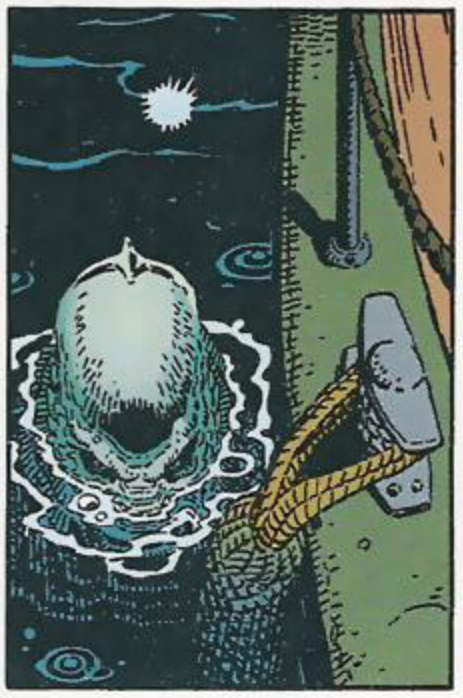
YOU TALKING TO ME, MARK? OR... SOMETHING OUT THERE?
BOTH, DAVID.
THEY WON'T BELIEVE IT, BACK HOME. NONE OF THEM! I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT MYSELF!
SITTING OUT HERE... WAITING FOR SOME MONSTER TO APPEAR! THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM!

WHY WON'T THEY BELIEVE, MARK?


BECAUSE WE DEAL WITH KNOWN QUANTITIES! WITH KNOWLEDGE WE'VE ACCUMULATED UP TO NOW.
WE'VE JUST BEGUN TO LEARN ABOUT THE WATER, AND ITS SECRETS.
JUST AS WE'VE ONLY TOUCHED ON OUTER SPACE. WE DON'T ENTIRELY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME FORM OF LIFE ON ANOTHER PLANET. THEN WHY NOT SOME ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FORM OF LIFE ON A WORLD WE ALREADY KNOW IS INHABITED BY MILLIONS OF LIVING CREATURES?

WE MUST HAVE THE PROOF!
RITA

THAT NIGHT...



GROUNK!

DAVID!

GRAAAW!
CRASH

IN THE WATER! THE LANTERN FRIGHTENED HIM OFF!
SPLASH!

NO. DON'T SHOOT.

GRONK!

GRAAOUGH

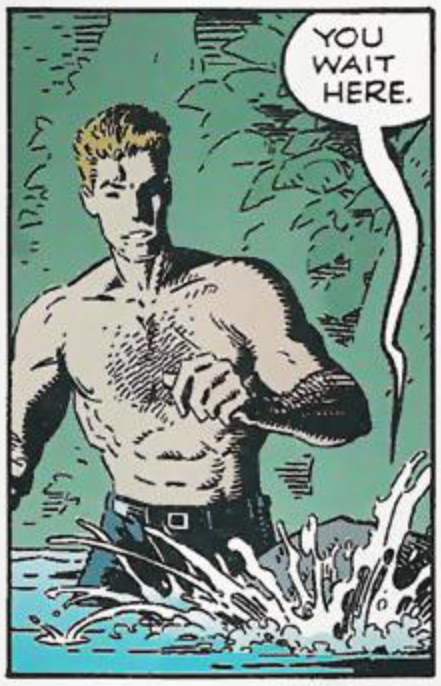
YOU'RE FOOLISH TO GO AFTER IT.
BUT HE'S DRUGGED!

NO, I'D WAIT ANYWAY!
WELL, IF HE HAS GILLS, HE MAY SUFFOCATE! HOW LONG DOES THE EFFECT LAST?

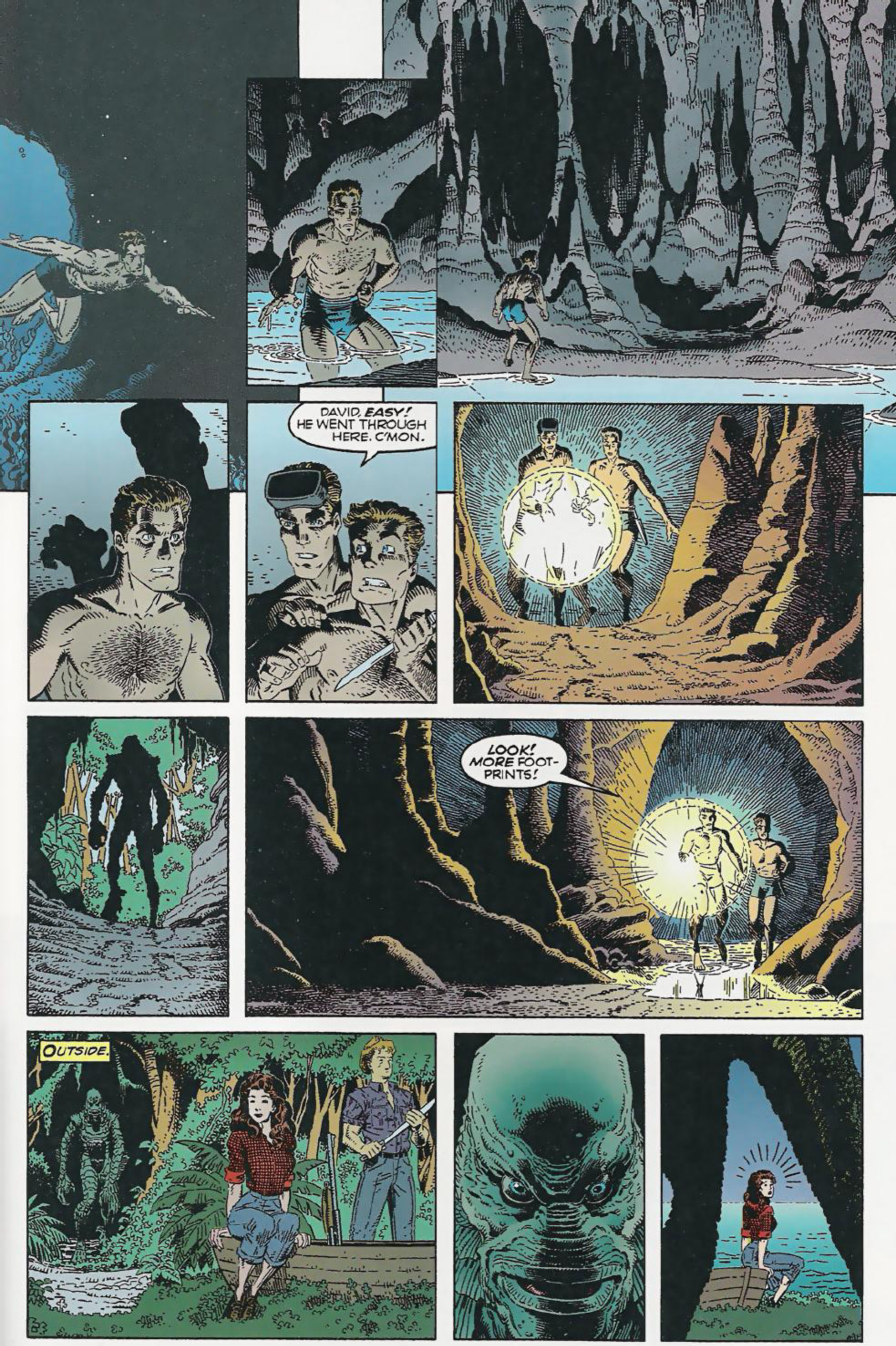
HOUR... MAYBE TWO, BUT FOR THAT THING... WHO CAN TELL?
CARL! FOLLOW ME IN A ROWBOAT! BRING A NET!
WAIT, I'M GOING ALONG WITH YOU!

I GIVE YOU COVER!
RITA

THAT'S WHERE HE WENT UNDER!
I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK.


YOU WAIT HERE.

?


DAVID, EASY! HE WENT THROUGH HERE. C'MON.
LOOK! MORE FOOT-PRINTS!
OUTSIDE.

HHHRRRR
ZEE!

ROAR

HHHARRRRR!
AAAIEEE*
KRIK

ROAR

AAAAAAAAA

HHHHRRR

GRRRUNK?

KAY!

Oh, DAVID! DAVID!
WE'VE GOT HIM!
WE'VE GOT HIM!
WUNK WUNK
DON'T KILL HIM!
WHAT HAPPENED?
GIVE ME THE NET!
HOW IS HE?
HE'S DEAD.
THAT'S THE LAST ONE.
WILL HE LIVE?
I DON'T KNOW.
DEPENDS ON WHETHER HE CAN SURVIVE BOTH THE ROTINONE AND BEING OUT OF THE WATER SO LONG.
YOU SOUND AS THOUGH YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. WHY? HE COULD'VE KILLED YOU JUST AS EASY.
BUT HE DIDN'T.

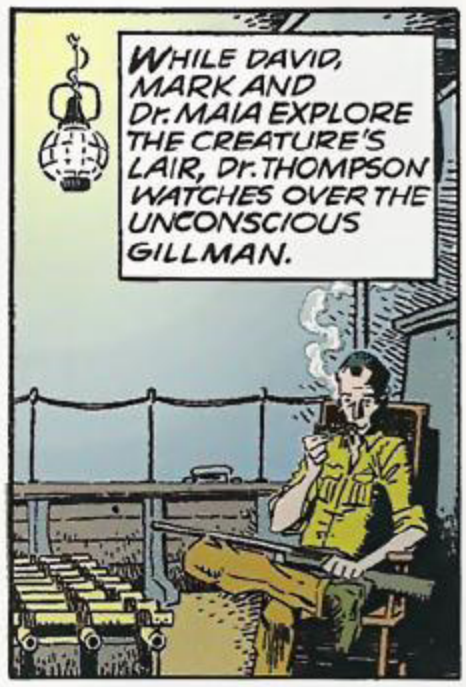
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE NOW. THE POINT IS HE WON'T BE DOING ANY MORE KILLING.
WELL, ANY TIME YOU'RE READY, LUCAS, WE CAN START BACK.

MARK, WE'RE NOT FINISHED HERE, YET. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A STUDY OF THAT GROTTO. WE'VE GOT TO COLLECT PHOTOGRAPHS.

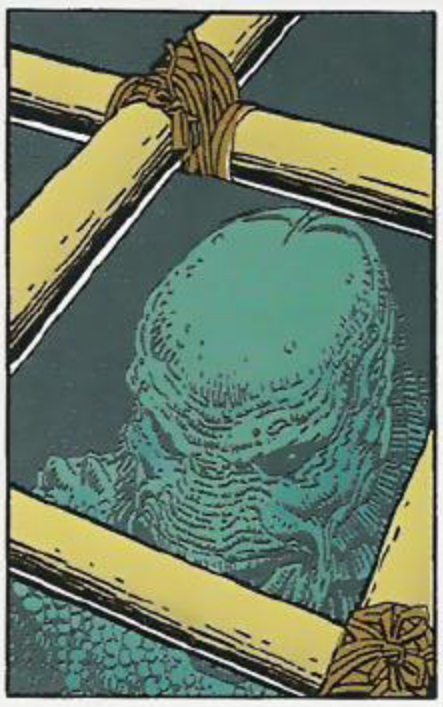
I'VE GOT ALL THE PROOF I NEED! GET GOING, LUCAS!

MARK, WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL WE'VE FINISHED OUR WORK!

ALL RIGHT, DAVID. IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER.
Oh, DOCTOR, WOULD YOU MIND STAYING BEHIND AND KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR PRIZE?
OF COURSE NOT, Dr. WILLIAMS.


WHILE DAVID, MARK AND Dr. MAIA EXPLORE THE CREATURE'S LAIR, Dr. THOMPSON WATCHES OVER THE UNCONSCIOUS GILLMAN.

ZZZZZ



CLAK
KLUNK

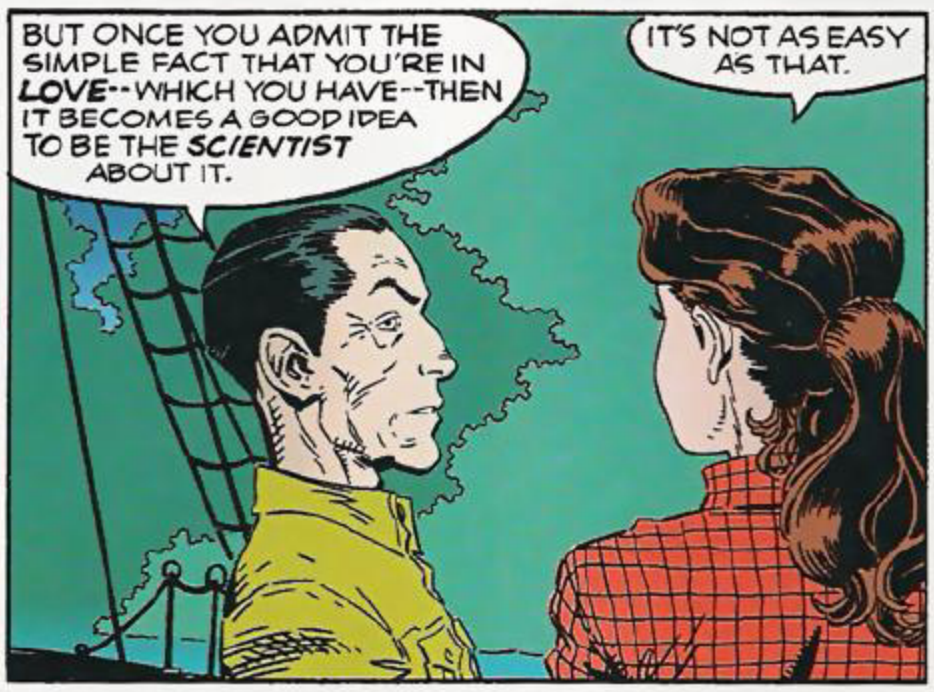
HI!

I THOUGHT I'D COME UP AND GET SOME AIR.
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IS TAKING THEM SO LONG?
DAVID'S VERY THOROUGH. BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE RESTING, KAY?

I COULDN'T SLEEP.
KOOKAWR! KOOKAWR!
LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS...
HUNTING CALLS, MOSTLY. ANIMALS OUT FOR THE KILL.

SOME OF THEM ARE CRIES OF FEAR. LIKE PEOPLE WHO WHISTLE IN THE DARK.

I'M NOT EXACTLY BLIND, KAY. YOU'RE WORRIED--ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN MARK AND DAVID.


BUT ONCE YOU ADMIT THE SIMPLE FACT THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE--WHICH YOU HAVE--THEN IT BECOMES A GOOD IDEA TO BE THE SCIENTIST ABOUT IT.
IT'S NOT AS EASY AS THAT.

WHY NOT?
KREAK

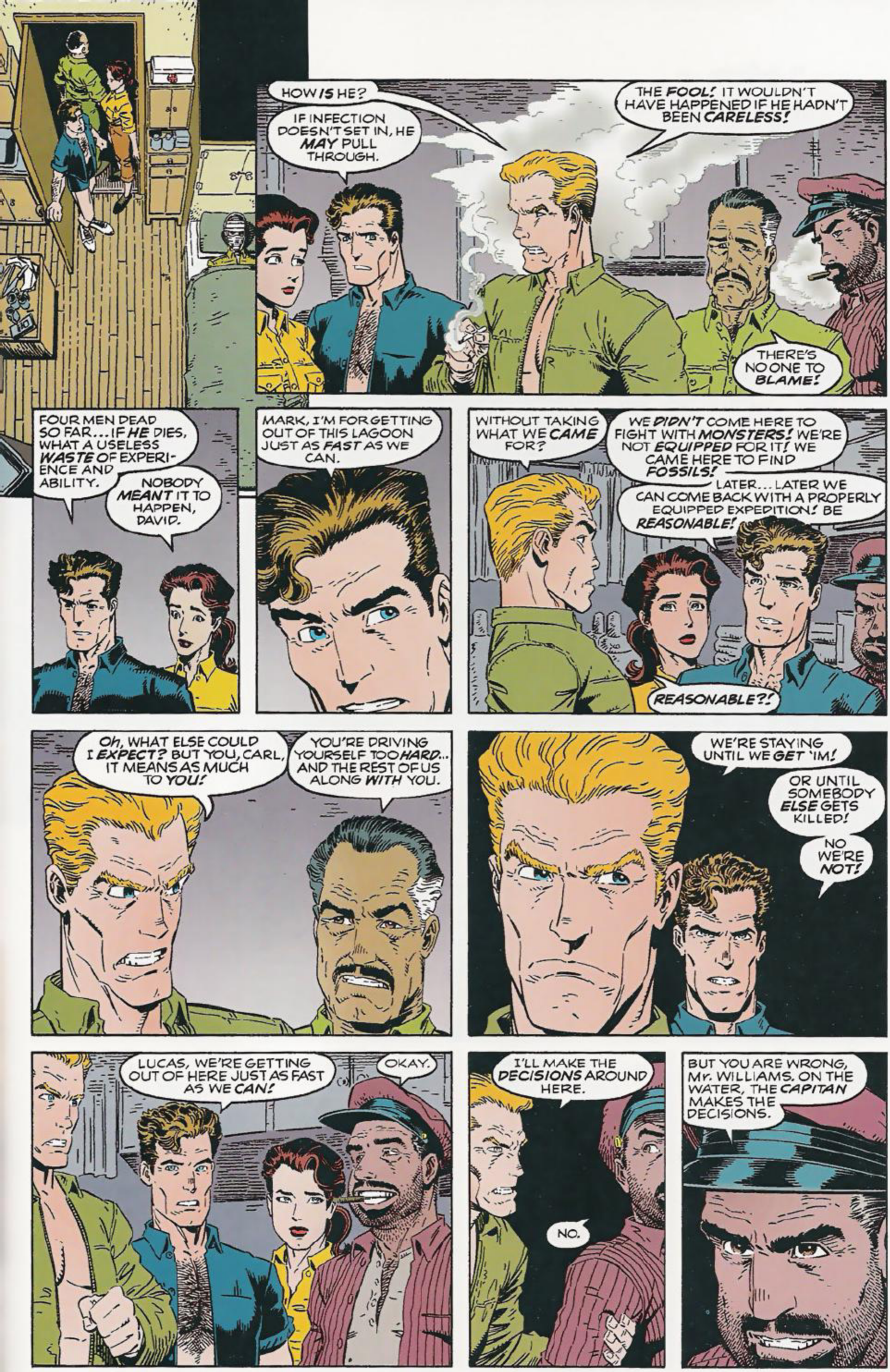
IF IT WEREN'T FOR MARK WILLIAMS, I WOULDN'T HAVE MY WORK, OR EVEN A JOB.

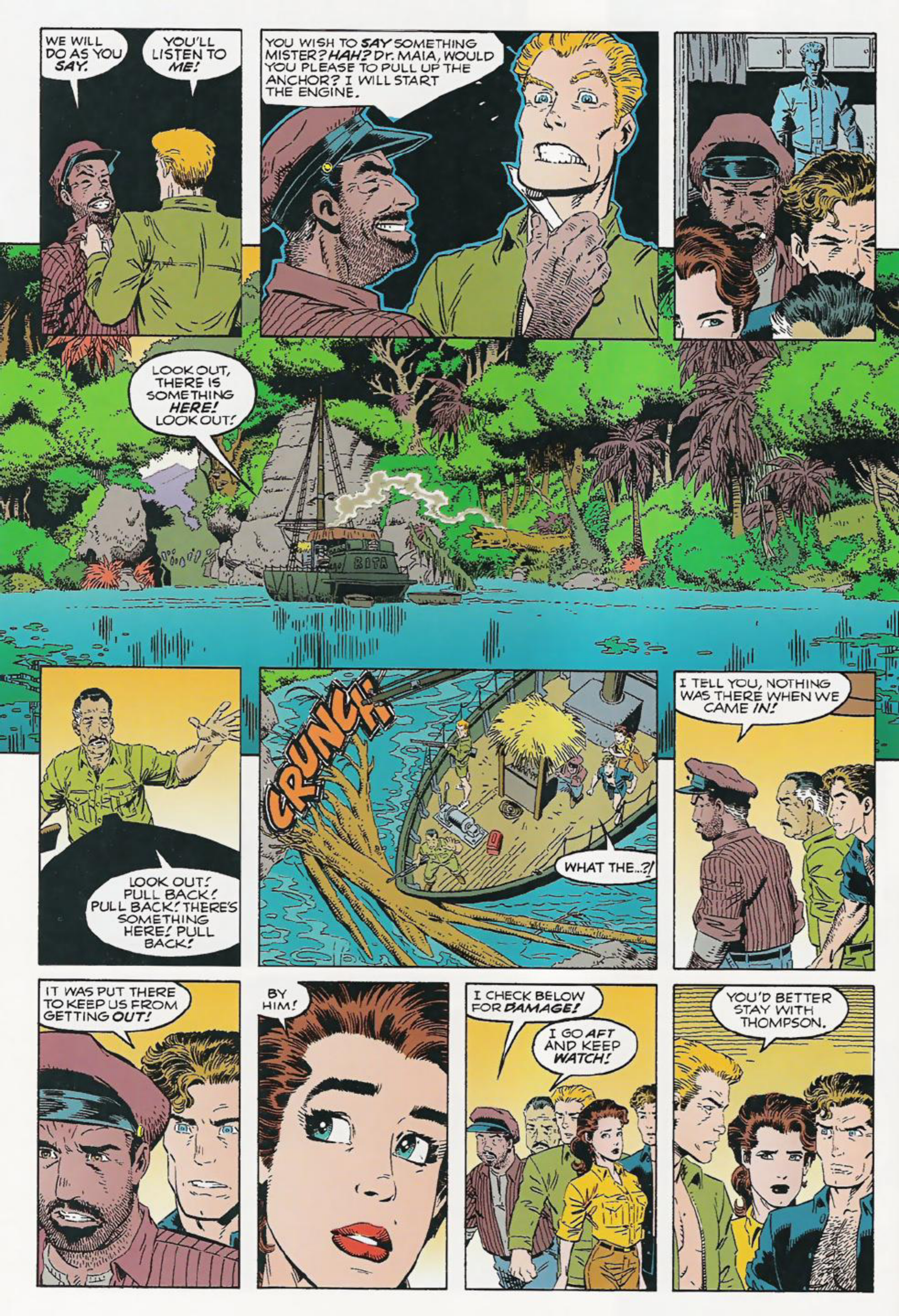
THAT'S TRUE. HE HELPED YOU THROUGH YOUR TRAINING, AND GAVE YOU A JOB. BUT HE NEEDED YOU JUST AS MUCH AS YOU NEEDED HIM.

YOU'RE OVER SIMPLIFYING.
YOU'VE MORE THAN REPAID HIM. MANY TIMES OVER. WHY, A GOOD PART OF HIS PRESENT POSITION AT THE INSTITUTE IS DUE TO YOUR VALUABLE RESEARCH. AND ANOTHER THING...
CRAK

CRASH

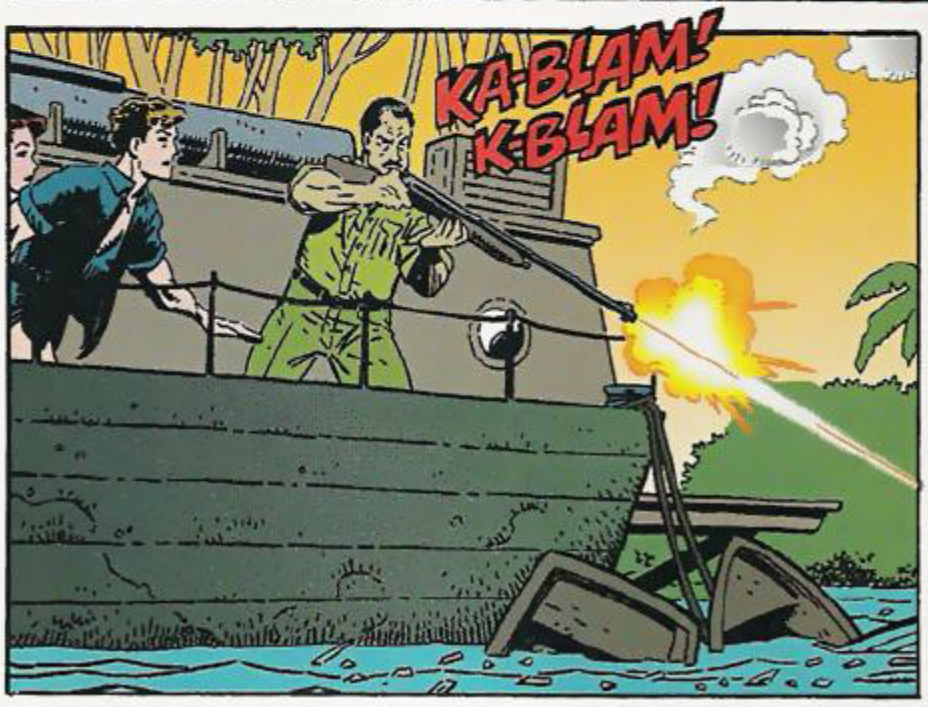
ROAR!
KRASH!
GAWR!
GET AWAY, KAY!
GO ON! GET BACK!
HHHRR!
AACH
WHOOSHH!
KRASH!
Dr. THOMPSON!
SPLOOSH
AAAAA SOB AAA NNNNNA AAAAA SOB


HOW IS HE?
IF INFECTION DOESN'T SET IN, HE MAY PULL THROUGH.
THE FOOL! IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF HE HADN'T BEEN CARELESS!
THERE'S NO ONE TO BLAME!
FOUR MEN DEAD SO FAR... IF HE DIES, WHAT A USELESS WASTE OF EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY.
NOBODY MEANT IT TO HAPPEN, DAVID.
MARK, I'M FORGETTING OUT OF THIS LAGOON JUST AS FAST AS WE CAN.
WITHOUT TAKING WHAT WE CAME FOR?
WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT WITH MONSTERS! WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED FOR IT! WE CAME HERE TO FIND FOSSILS!
LATER... LATER WE CAN COME BACK WITH A PROPERLY EQUIPPED EXPEDITION! BE REASONABLE!
REASONABLE?!
Oh, WHAT ELSE COULD I EXPECT? BUT YOU, CARL, IT MEANS AS MUCH TO YOU!
YOU'RE DRIVING YOURSELF TOO HARD... AND THE REST OF US ALONG WITH YOU.
WE'RE STAYING UNTIL WE GET 'IM!
OR UNTIL SOMEBODY ELSE GETS KILLED!
NO WE'RE NOT!
LUCAS, WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE JUST AS FAST AS WE CAN!
OKAY.
I'LL MAKE THE DECISIONS AROUND HERE.
NO.
BUT YOU ARE WRONG, Mr. WILLIAMS. ON THE WATER, THE CAPITAN MAKES THE DECISIONS.


WE WILL DO AS YOU SAY.
YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME!
YOU WISH TO SAY SOMETHING MISTER? HAH? Dr. MAIA, WOULD YOU PLEASE TO PULL UP THE ANCHOR? I WILL START THE ENGINE.
LOOK OUT, THERE IS SOMETHING HERE! LOOK OUT!
RITA
LOOK OUT! PULL BACK! PULL BACK! THERE'S SOMETHING HERE! PULL BACK!
CRUNCH!
WHAT THE...?!
I TELL YOU, NOTHING WAS THERE WHEN WE CAME IN!
IT WAS PUT THERE TO KEEP US FROM GETTING OUT!
BY HIM!
I CHECK BELOW FOR DAMAGE!
I GO AFT AND KEEP WATCH!
YOU'D BETTER STAY WITH THOMPSON.

IT'S OUR LAST CHANCE, DAVID. TO GET THE PROOF! LOOK, YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF--IT'S STILL HERE!
WE'RE TRAPPED AND FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES... AND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE US!
HEY! IS ALL RIGHT, DOWN BELOW.

KERASH BLAM BLAM SPOOSH


KA-BLAM! K-BLAM!

GO IN THE CABIN AND LOCK THE DOOR, KAY!

NO. NO, STAY HERE WITH US. YOU'RE SAFER. LUCAS, START YOUR WINCH.
HUH.
GO ON! GO ON! START YOUR WINCH!

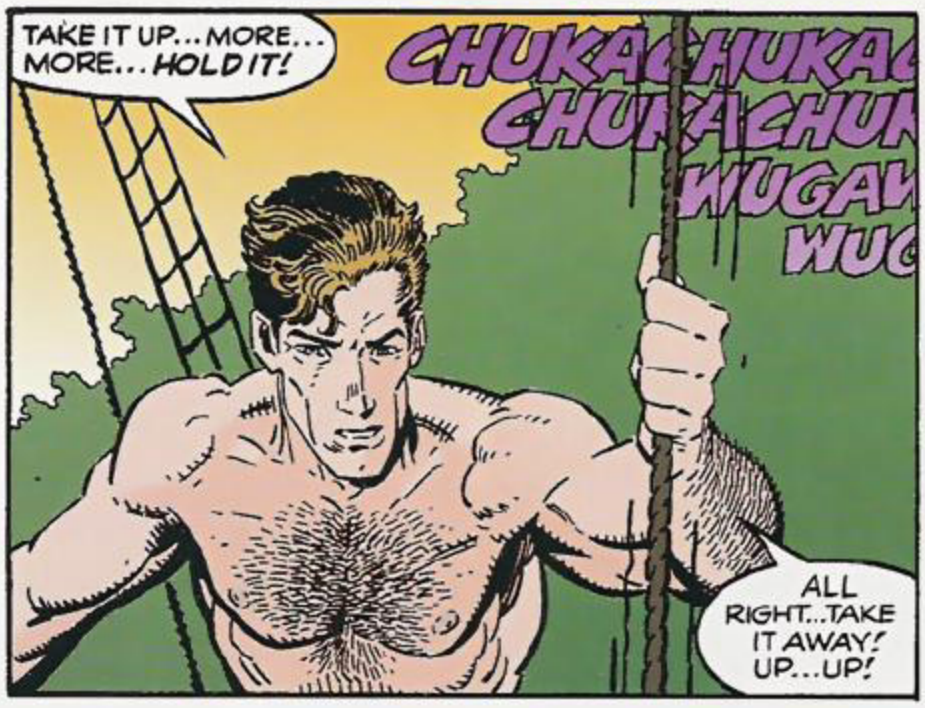
LATER...
CHUKA CHUKA CHUKA CHUK HU

UP AN INCH!
HOLD IT!

ALL RIGHT, GIMME SOME SLACK. GOOD!
GRRR
LITTLE MORE... WHOA!

TAKE IT AWAY! EASY... LITTLE MORE... WHOA!

TAKE IT AWAY!
GRRR GRR


TAKE IT UP... MORE... MORE... HOLD IT!
CHUKA CHUKA CHUKA CHUKA WUGAW WUG
ALL RIGHT...TAKE IT AWAY! UP...UP!

CHUCK WURT!
GRA NG

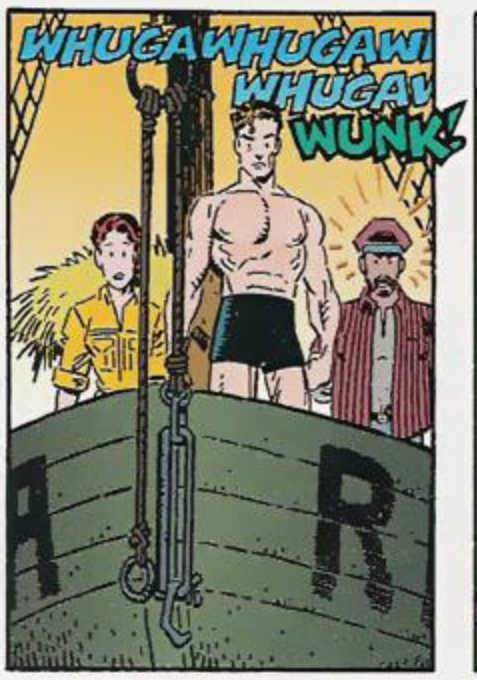
WHIRGAWHI GAWHIRGA
CUMON, CUMON!

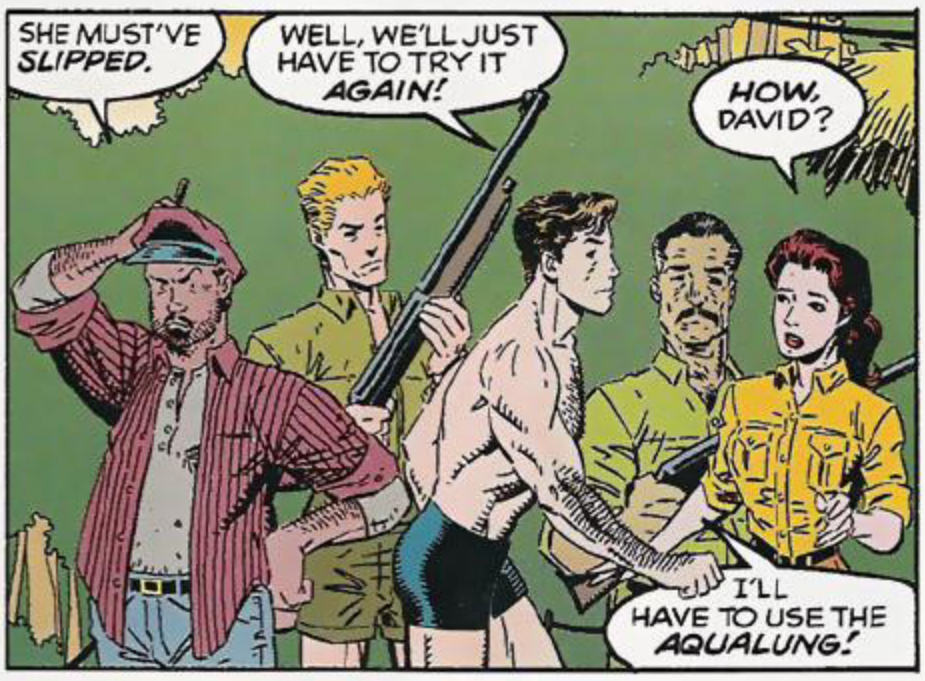
WHIRGA WHIRGA
GROAN!

KREEK
WHIRGAWHIR

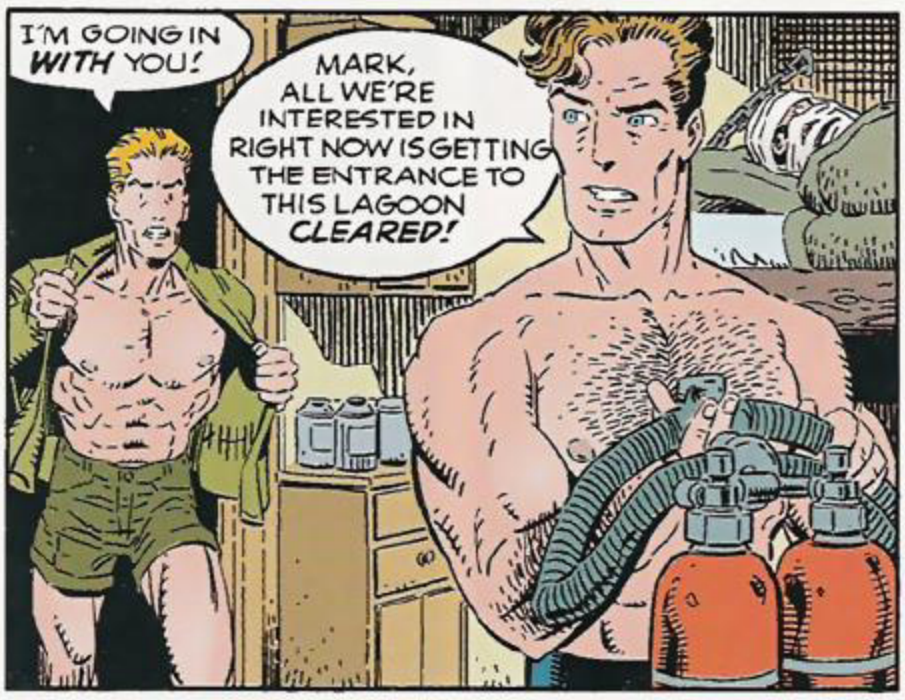
TINK

WURT! WHUGA WHUGA
YOU SEE? SHE WORKS!

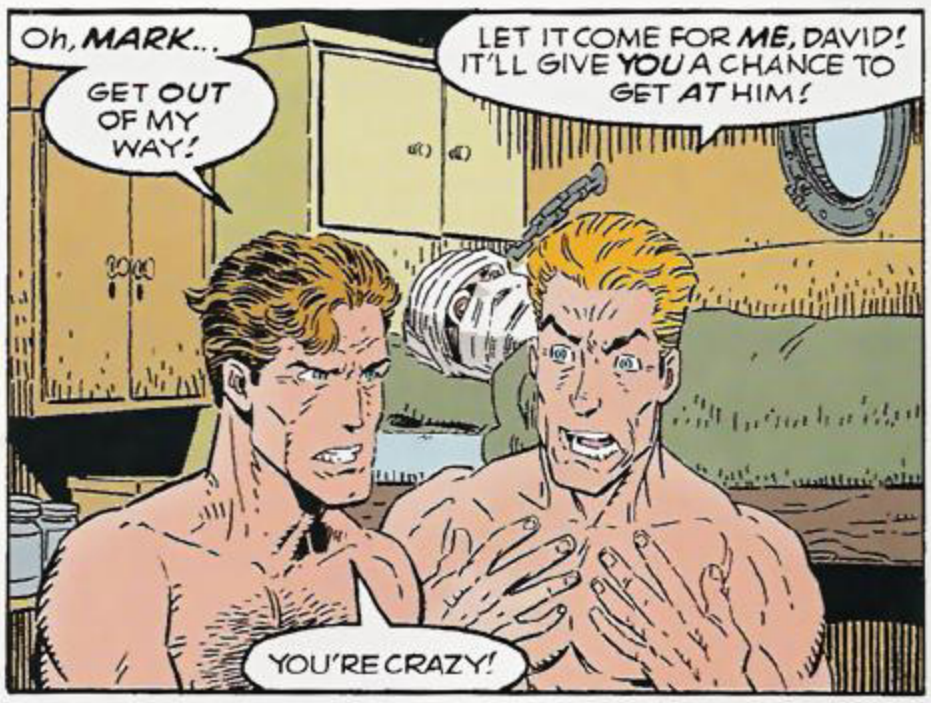

WHUGA WHUGAWI WHUGAW WUNK!


SHE MUST'VE SLIPPED.
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY IT AGAIN!
HOW, DAVID?
I'LL HAVE TO USE THE AQUALUNG!

I'M GOING TO HELP HIM!


I'M GOING IN WITH YOU!
MARK, ALL WE'RE INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW IS GETTING THE ENTRANCE TO THIS LAGOON CLEARED!

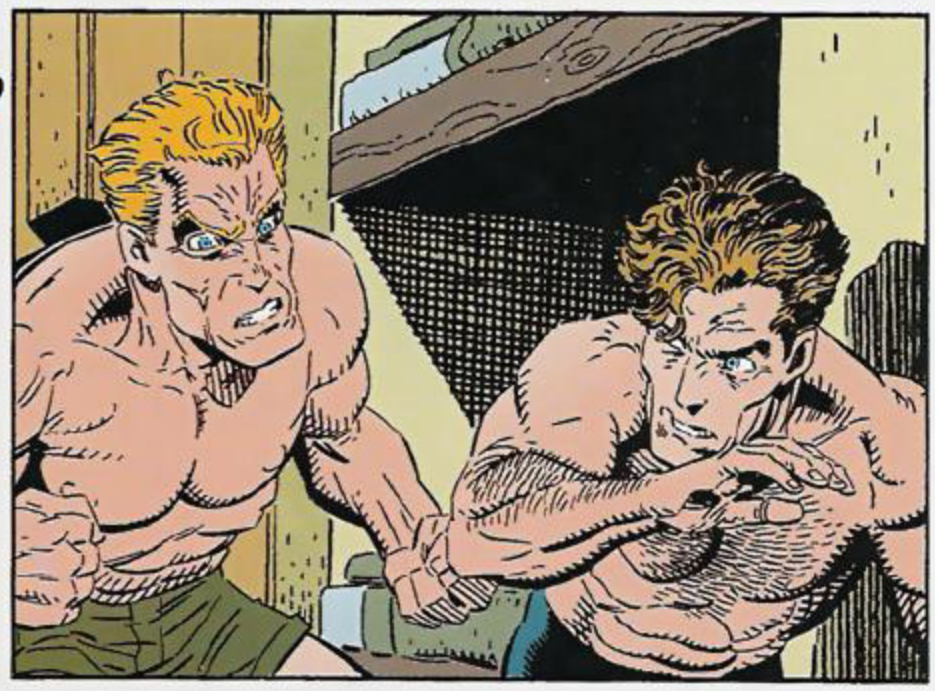
I'LL BE THE BAIT FOR HIM!


Oh, MARK...
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
LET IT COME FOR ME, DAVID! IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO GET AT HIM!
YOU'RE CRAZY!

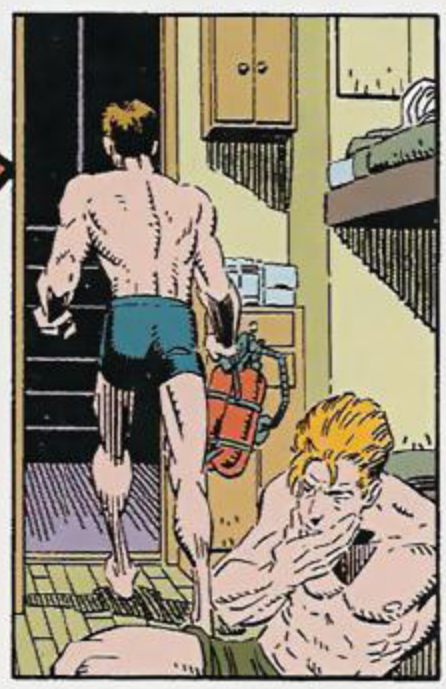
CRAZY TO WANT TO BRING BACK THE BIGGEST FIND ANYONE'S EVER MADE?! Oh,..YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS CAN MEAN, DAVID. TO ALL OF US!

MARK, YOU'RE NOT GOING WITH ME!

PUNCH!



KRAK



THANK YOU CARL.
LUCAS, STAND BY THE WINCH. CARL, STAND BY THAT CABLE.

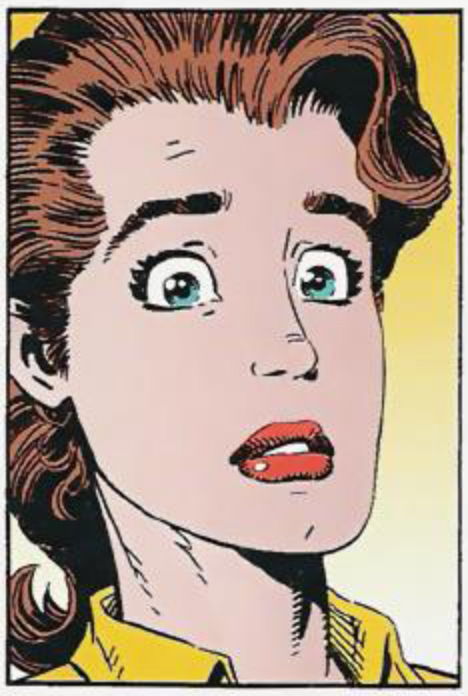
SPLOOSH

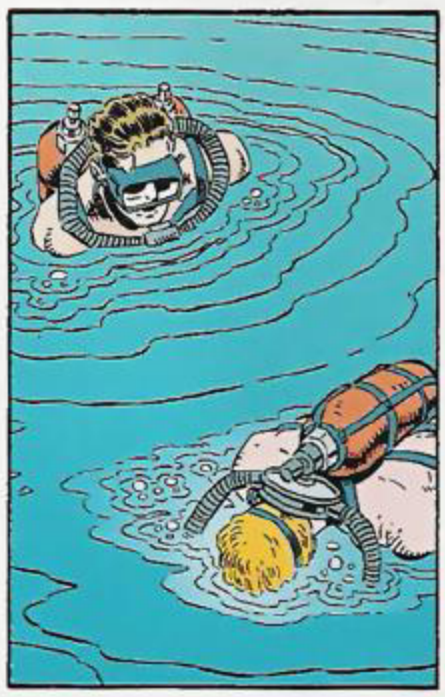
SHHHSH!
PLOOSHHH
TUNK

SPLOOSH

FFSHHHH

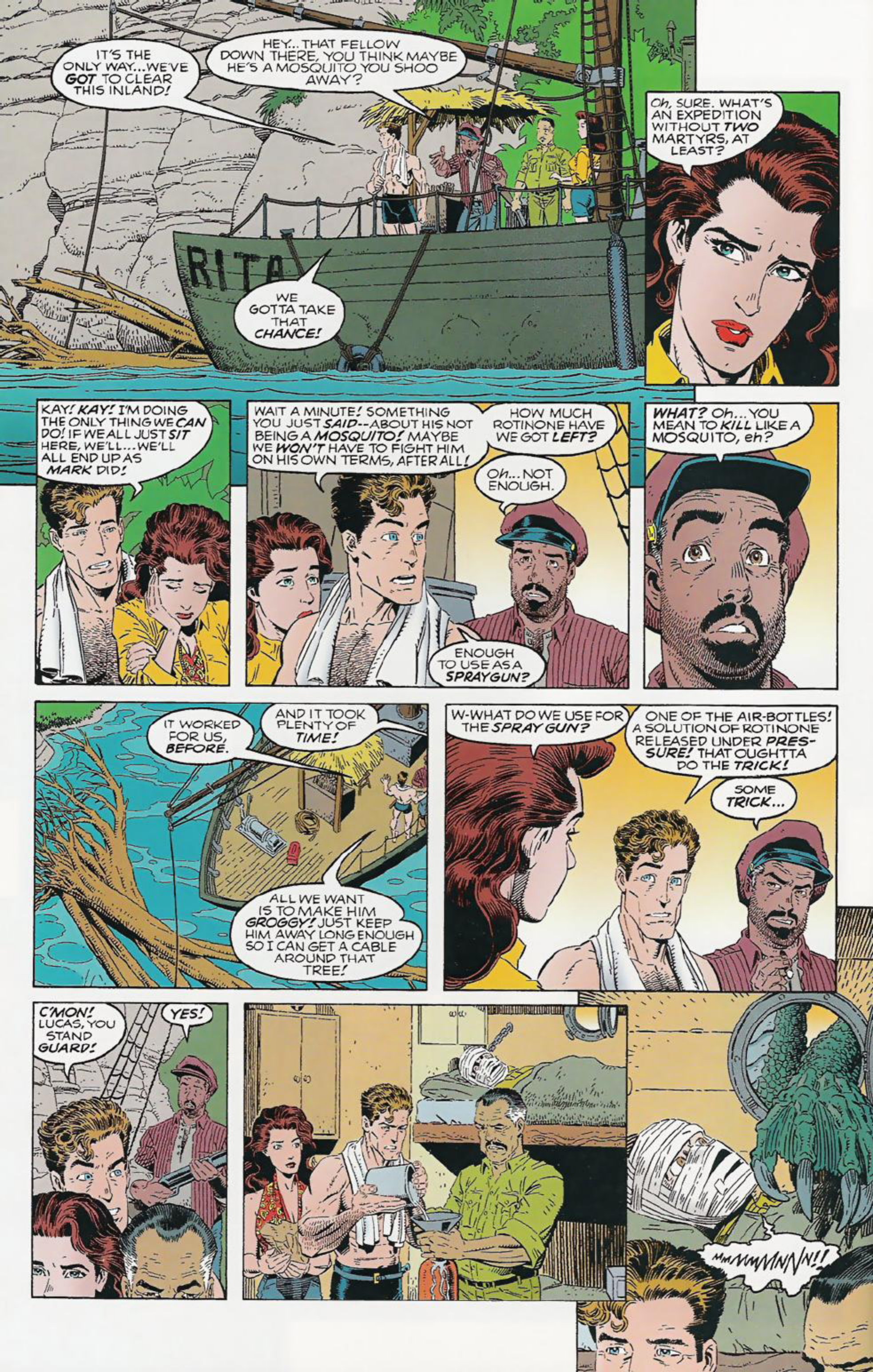
LOOK!
RITA





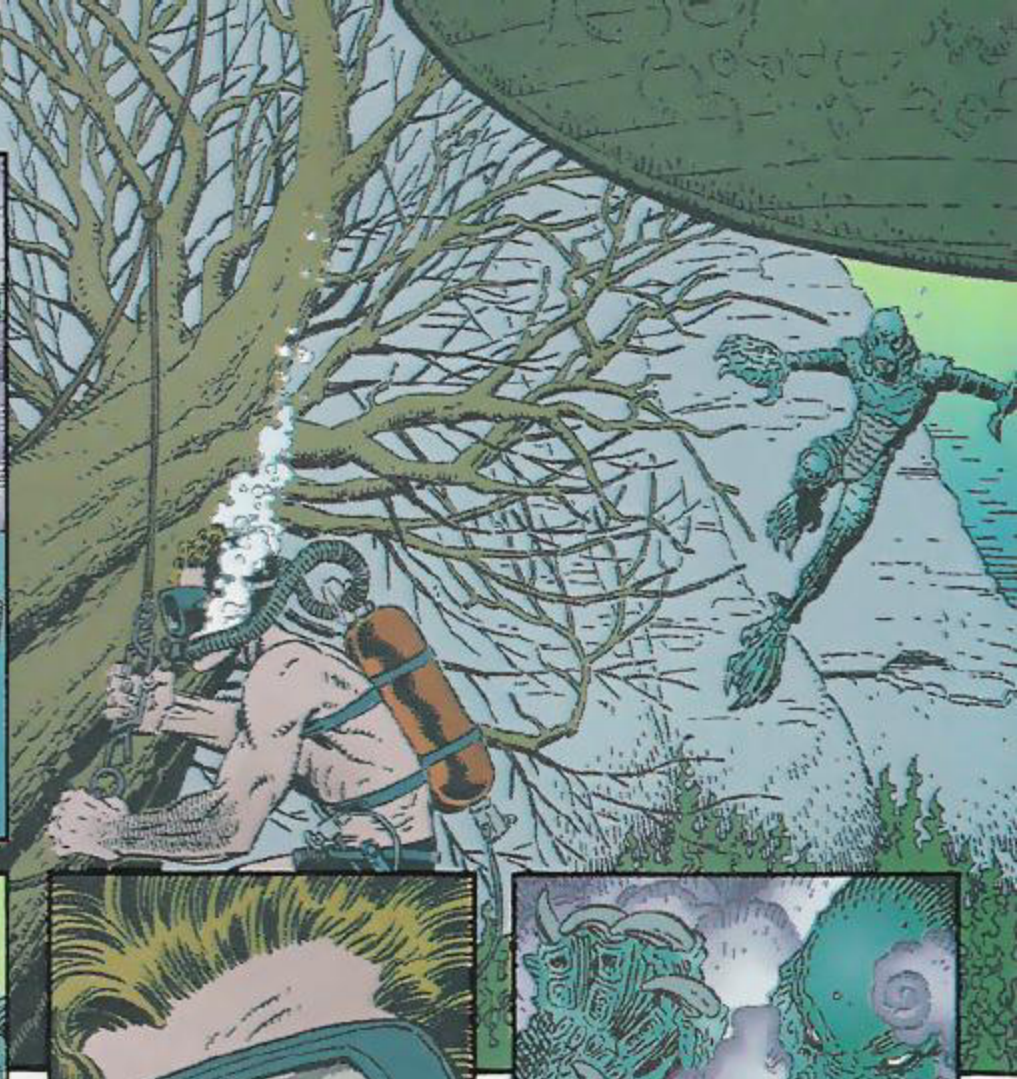
IS HE...?

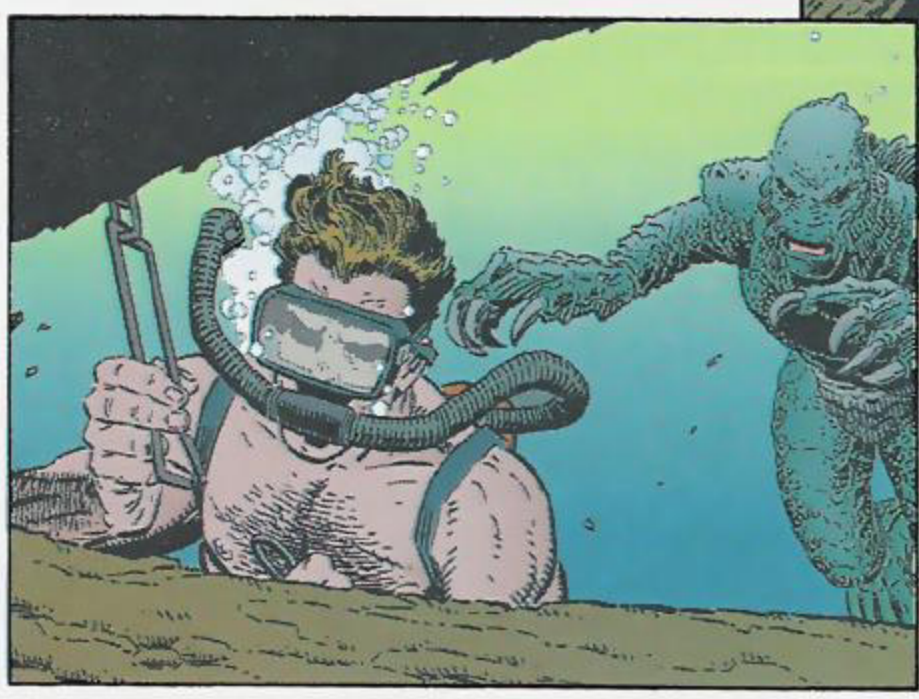
YES.
SOB!


IT'S THE ONLY WAY...WE'VE GOT TO CLEAR THIS INLAND!
HEY... THAT FELLOW DOWN THERE, YOU THINK MAYBE HE'S A MOSQUITO YOU SHOO AWAY?
RITA
WE GOTTA TAKE THAT CHANCE!
Oh, SURE. WHAT'S AN EXPEDITION WITHOUT TWO MARTYRS, AT LEAST?
KAY! KAY! I'M DOING THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO! IF WE ALL JUST SIT HERE, WE'LL...WE'LL ALL END UP AS MARK DID!
WAIT A MINUTE! SOMETHING YOU JUST SAID--ABOUT HIS NOT BEING A MOSQUITO! MAYBE WE WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT HIM ON HIS OWN TERMS, AFTER ALL!
HOW MUCH ROTINONE HAVE WE GOT LEFT?
Oh... NOT ENOUGH.
ENOUGH TO USE AS A SPRAYGUN?
WHAT? Oh... YOU MEAN TO KILL LIKE A MOSQUITO, eh?
IT WORKED FOR US, BEFORE.
AND IT TOOK PLENTY OF TIME!
ALL WE WANT IS TO MAKE HIM GROGGY! JUST KEEP HIM AWAY LONG ENOUGH SO I CAN GET A CABLE AROUND THAT TREE!
W-WHAT DO WE USE FOR THE SPRAY GUN?
ONE OF THE AIR-BOTTLES! A SOLUTION OF ROTINONE RELEASED UNDER PRESSURE! THAT OUGHTTA DO THE TRICK!
SOME TRICK...
C'MON! LUCAS, YOU STAND GUARD!
YES!
MMMMMMNNN!!

DAVID!
WHACK WHACK
BLAM! BLAM! K-BLAM!
CAN YOU HURRY IT UP?
I SHOOT HIM, BUT I MISS!
HE'LL BE BACK! HURRY!
SHORTLY...
SPLOOSH

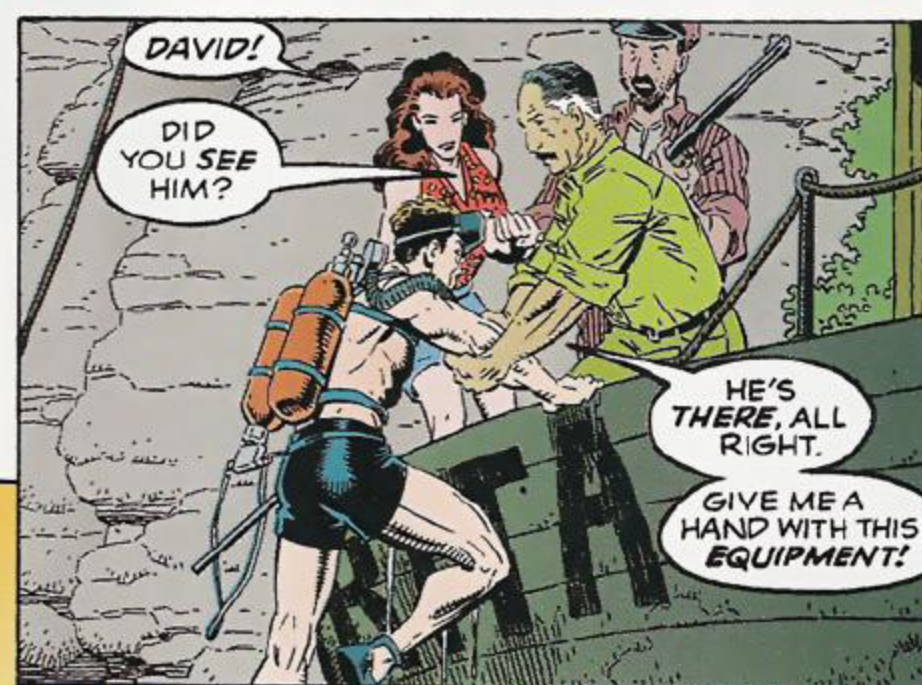
WHOOSH





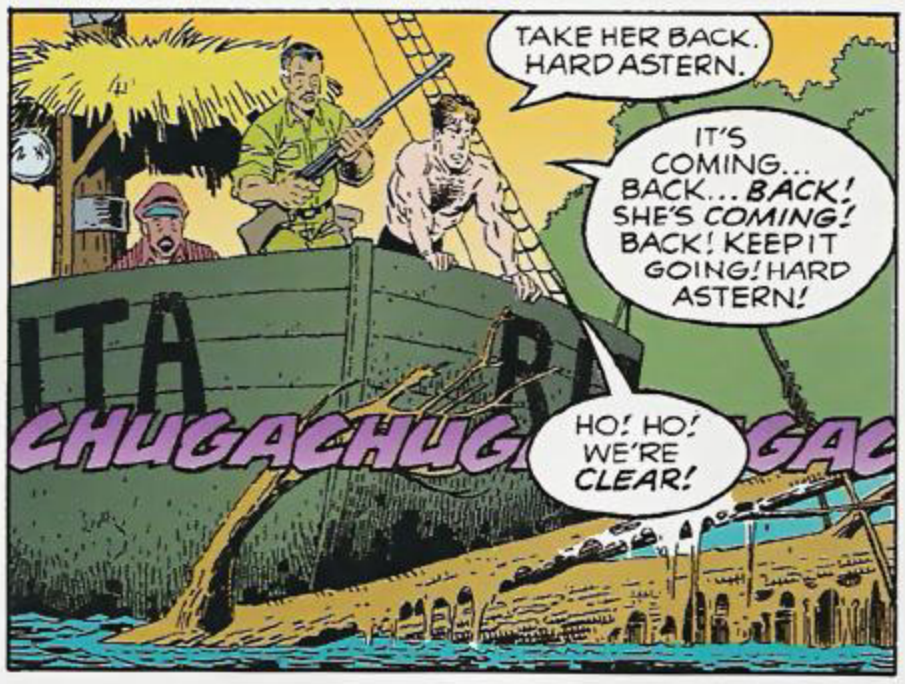
SPISHH

GIVE ME A HAND!


DAVID!
DID YOU SEE HIM?
HE'S THERE, ALL RIGHT.
GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS EQUIPMENT!

HERE, WE'LL HELP YOU.
GOT THE CABLE AROUND THE LOG.
GOOD!
GET READY WITH THAT WINCH!
ALL RIGHT!

GIVE IT A LITTLE SLACK.
SI.
HOLD IT. HOLD IT. GET READY TO TAKE HER BACK. KAY, UNREEVE THAT LINE FOR ME, WILLYA?
ALL RIGHT, TAKE HER BACK.
CHUGACHUGACHUGACH


TAKE HER BACK. HARD ASTERN.
IT'S COMING... BACK... BACK! SHE'S COMING! BACK! KEEP IT GOING! HARD ASTERN!
HO! HO! WE'RE CLEAR!
CHUGACHUG

STAND BY TO PULL HER UP WITH THE WINCH. PULL IT IN!

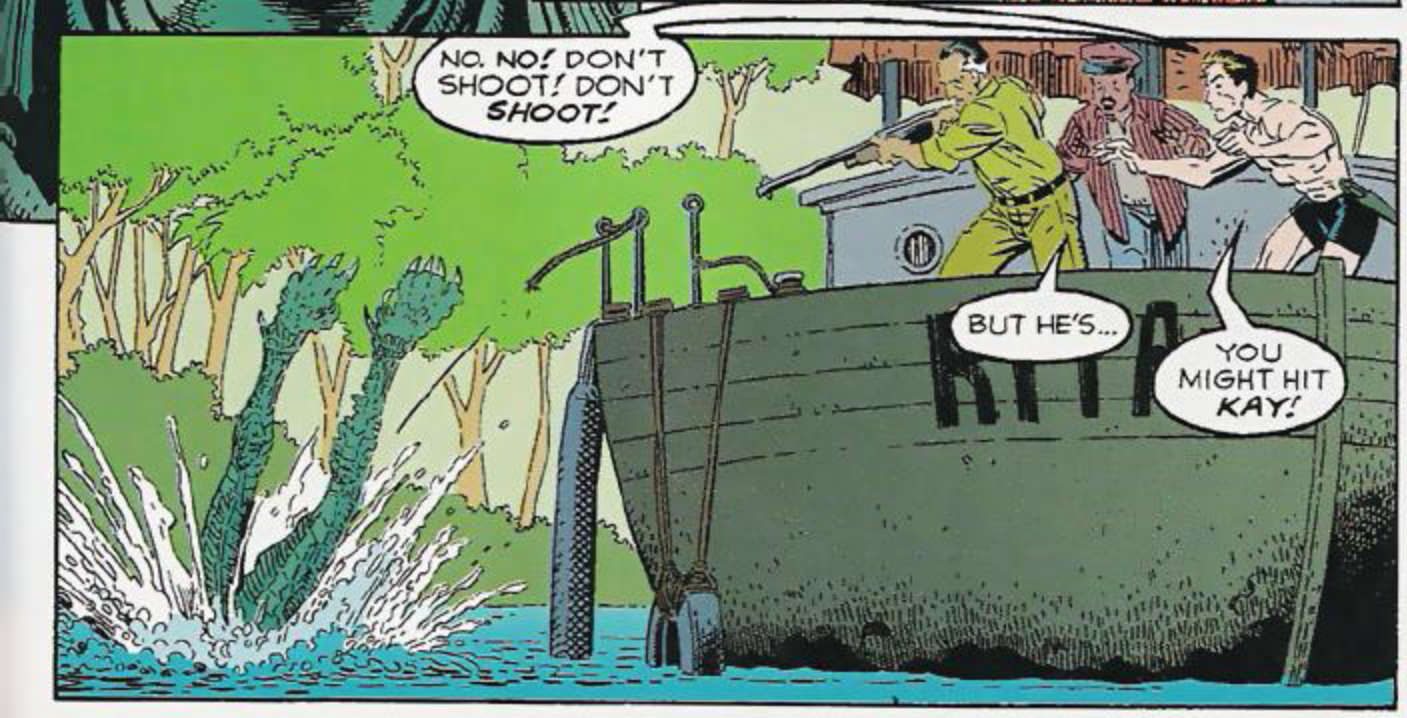
HO! HO! I'LL GO DOWN AND UNFASTEN IT!
CHUGA CRIK

THAT'S GOOD! NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT! JUST SLIP THE BAR THROUGH THE RING.
RITA
RITA

HURRY, DAVID!

I'VE ALMOST GOT IT!

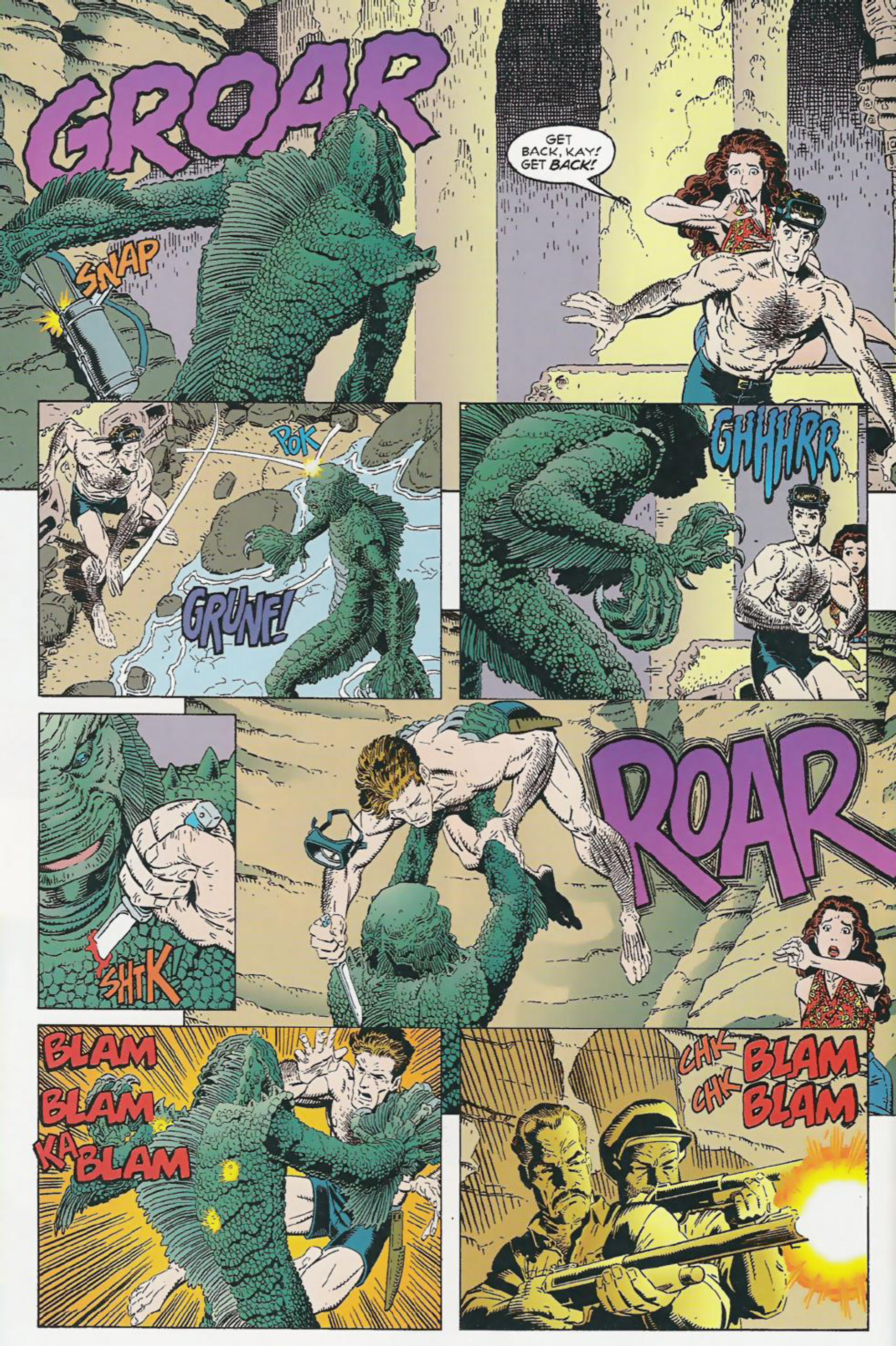
GRRR
AAAAEYYY


NO. NO! DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!
BUT HE'S...
YOU MIGHT HIT KAY!

GIVE ME A HAND!

LUCAS, GET TO THE BEACH ENTRANCE.
KAY! KAY!
ROAR
GRUNF
KAY!
GROAR!
SPLASH

!
KAY!
KAY!
NNNNNN
KAY! DARLING! YOU'RE ALIVE!
DAVID!
Oh, DAVID! =SOB!=


GROAR
SNAP
GET BACK, KAY! GET BACK!
POK
GRUNF!
GHHHRR
ROAR
SHTK
BLAM BLAM KA BLAM
CHK CHK BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM
RAWR
BLAM KABLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM GRAWR
NO. NO MORE. LET HIM GO!
GHHHR
GRRNF
NO.

THE
END

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